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POCKET-GUIDE

VICHY-ENVIRONS

PROFESSOR GROS

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POCKET GUIDE

VICHY AND ENVIRONS

BY PROFESSOR GROS

Price: 1 Franc 25

(ONE SHILLING)

8th EDITION

SUMMER SEASON 1884

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COMPANY FERMIÈRE

OF THE

THERMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF VICHY

(Limited)

An anonymous Society

Administration : 22, BOULEVARD MONTMARTRE, **Paris**

VICHY WATERS

DANGER OF ARTIFICIAL WATERS

« Go to the natural Springs, says Dr Bourdon, nature is « far better than the laboratory.

« I cannot blame in too strong terms the use of arti- « ficial mineral waters. They never replace those of the « natural Springs : to give the name of Vichy water to a « mere solution of bicarbonate of soda is as great an « abuse of language as to give the name of wine to a « mixture of cream of tartar, alcohol and mineral salts, « which wine furnishes, when analysed. »

Dr Barthez.

EXPORTATION AND PRESERVATION

The Vichy waters are remarkable for their keeping qualities and, even after a great lapse of time, the alteration that takes place is inconsiderable. The bottles should be kept lying down in a dry place. These powers of preservation are as much due to the natural quality of the water as to the extreme care taken in bottling them.

MANNER OF EMPLOYMENT

The best manner of using the Vichy waters is to take the dose prescribed half in the morning before breakfast and the rest with the meals : in the morning, pure ; at meals, mixed with wine. The ordinary dose of Vichy is one or two bottles per day. The regimen should be subordinate to the phases of the disease and to the requirements of the organization.

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APPLICATION IN MEDICINE

OF THE

DIFFERENT SPRINGS

GRANDE-GRILLE

Lymphatic affections, maladies of the digestive organs, enlargement of the liver, visceral obstructions and bilious calculi.

HOPITAL

Has much analogy with the Grande-Grille, but is less exciting, and adapted for the use of delicate invalids, nervous or disposed to congestion or hemorrhage. This water acts equally in affections of the stomach, digestive organs, heaviness of the stomach, difficult digestion, want of appetite, gastralgia or dyspepsia.

CELESTINS

Affections of the spine, kidneys, bladder, gravel, urinary calculi, gout, diabetes, albumen.

HAUTERIVE

Is, like the *Celestins*, prescribed for affections of the spine, kidneys, bladder, gravel, urinary calculi, gout, diabetes, albumen, etc. Its excess of carbonic acid renders it very fit for exportation and most adapted to replace the water taken fresh from the spring. Its gaseous qualities and the facility with which it is supported by the stomach recommend it no less than its excellent therapeutic results.

These waters are sent out in cases of 50 *quarts (litres) or pints (demi-litres).*

To avoid Counterfeits and Imitations

REQUIRE

The following capsule

SEALING EACH BOTTLE

OF THE

SPRINGS OF THE STATE

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NATURAL MINERAL SALTS

FOR

VICHY BATHS AT HOME

The natural Salts of Vichy are extracted from the mineral waters by a special process. This operation is carried on under the surveillance of the Company agents and the products are marked with a distinctive seal bearing the **Company stamp.**

These Salts added to water, in preference to the bicarbonate of soda of commerce, constitute the artificial VICHY BATHS which should be taken while the water is being drunk, with the sanction of the medical attendant, when they are likely to have a very beneficial effect. The treatment at home can be well followed up by those whose occupations, infirmities, distances, etc., prevent from visiting Vichy.

The Salt does not injure the enamel of the Bath and is sold in rouleaux weighing about nine ounces.

VICHY DIGESTIVE LOZENGES

FORM AND INSCRIPTION ON THE LOZENGE OF THE THERMAL ESTABLISHMENT

The Lozenges of the Establishment thermal of Vichy are prepared from the **natural mineral extract from the Sources.** They form an agreeable bonbon and assist the action of the mineral waters and have a very decided effect in difficult digestion. They soothe the stomach and saturate the acids of the digestive organs.

These Lozenges are flavoured with Peppermint, Citron, Vanille, Rose, Tolu, Orange Flower, and Aniseed, and are also without taste.

They must be kept in a warm and dry place, away from damp.

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BATH SEASON AT VICHY

The Establishment of Vichy is one of the largest in Europe at the disposal of invalids, having 350 baths, and, owing to the perfect organization of the service, is capable of giving 3,000 baths per-day.

There we find Douches and Baths of all kinds: vapour, carbonic acid gas and other baths; the means of inhaling carbonic acid, oxygen and other gases, the pulverization of mineral waters, etc., etc.; and in fact, all the bathing and other arrangements are most complete.

The regular Season commences the 15th of May and finishes the 30th of September, but the Establishment is open all the year, and many invalids prefer following their treatment after the season is over, the tranquillity and beautiful weather generally prevailing at Vichy in the months of October and November contributing no little to their cure, nor is the time less favourable between February 15th and May 15th

Ball-room, Concert-room, Lecture-room, rooms for Conversation, Cards, Billiards, Smoking; saloons for Ladies — Theatre containing 1,000 persons. — Magnificent Café in the Park, etc.

Every day, from 15th May to 30th September, Dramatic and Lyrical entertainments, Comedy, Vaudeville, Operettas, Concerts, etc., by the first artists of Paris.

The Promenades in the environs of Vichy are many and full of interest.

All the Railways conduct to Vichy.

All particulars about the journey to Vichy, hours of Bathing, cost of Board, Hotels, Apartments, etc., are sent gratuitously on receipt of a prepaid application.

Write *free* to Paris, 22, boulevart Montmartre, or to Vichy, the Establishment thermal.

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VICHY

GRAND HOTEL DES AMBASSADEURS

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GRAND HOTEL

DES

AMBASSADEURS

First class House

Most frequented by the English and American Gentry visiting Vichy.

SITUATED IN THE VERY BEST PART

Facing both the Park and the Concert square, close to the Baths and Springs, at a few yards from the Post and Telegraph office.

SPLENDID REPUTATION FOR WINE AND COOKERY

200 rooms. — 20 family saloons. — Reading-room. — Large saloon for soirées, containing 600 persons. — Billiard-room. — Smoking-room

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PRIVATE ATTENDANCE

OMNIBUS SERVICE TO THE STATION

ENGLISH SPOKEN

ROUBEAU, Prop.

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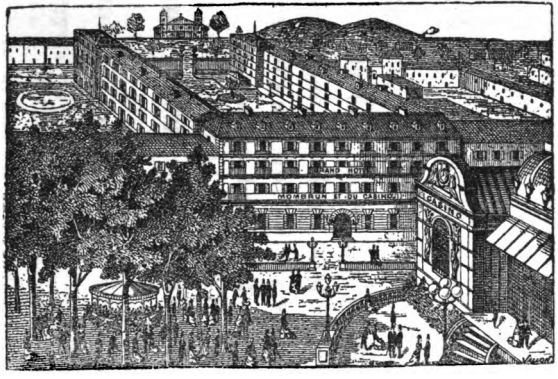
VICHY



GRAND HOTEL MOMBRUN & DU CASINO

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GRAND HOTEL

MOMBRUN & DU CASINO

FIRST CLASS HOUSE

WITH VIEW ON THE PARK, THE MUSIC KIOSK

AND THE CASINO

CLOSE TO THE BATH ESTABLISHMENT

AND THE SPRINGS

MOMBRUN, PROP.

Private and comfortable attendance

SPACIOUS & RICHLY FURNISHED APARTMENTS

AND PAVILIONS

OMNIBUS SERVICE TO THE STATION

ENGLISH SPOKEN

SPLENDID RESTAURANT

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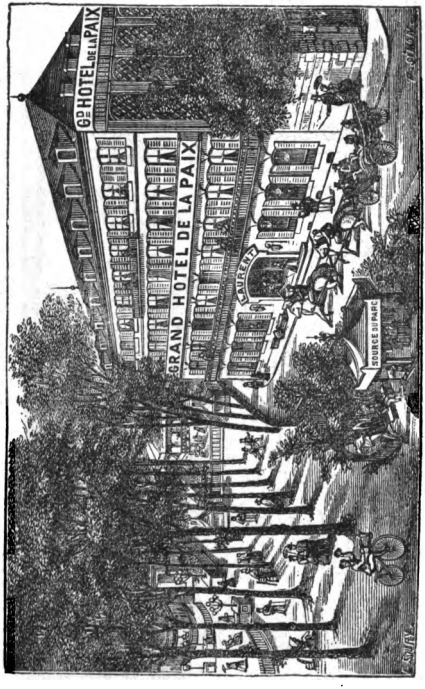
Rendez-vous of the first foreign Gentry
First class house, looking into the Park,
in the close vicinity
of the Establishment, Springs and Casino

VICHY — **GRAND HOTEL DE LA PAIX** — VICHY



Villa Eugénie, for Families
LAURENT, Prop.

FAMILY SALOONS AND PRIVATE ATTENDANCE

OMNIBUS SERVICE TO THE STATION

English Spoken

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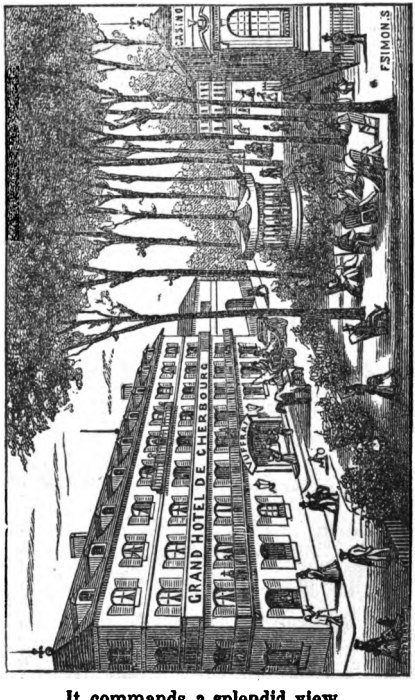
Mlle Vuffray, Prop.

PENET, Succr

FAMILY APARTMENTS, PRIVATE ATTENDANCE

VICHY

GRAND HOTEL DE CHERBOURG



Highly recommended to the English and American society visiting Vichy

It commands a splendid view of the Park, the Concert Square and the Casino and stands in close proximity to the Establishment and the Springs

English Spoken

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GRAND HOTEL DES BAINS

Facing the 1st class Establishment
and the Grande-Grille

JURY, Prop.

PRIVATE ATTENDANCE

Family apartments, dining-rooms & saloons

GARDEN

OMNIBUS SERVICE TO THE STATION

Foreign languages spoken

NICE — *Same House* — **NICE**

GRAND HOTEL DE PARIS

L. DUITTOZ-JURY

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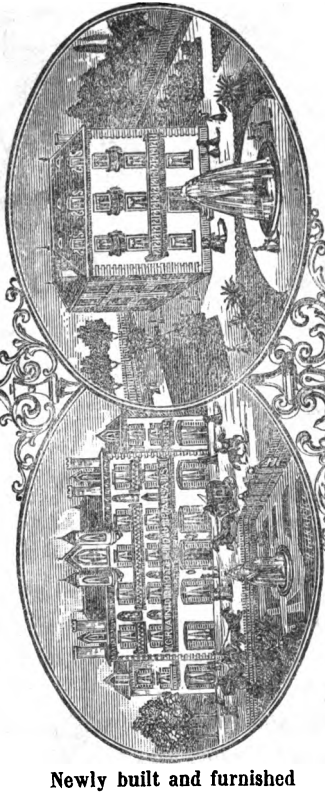
GRAND HOTEL DU PALAIS

Vichy — Rue de Nimes & rue Besse — Vichy

CHAMBONNIER

MEUNIER, Successor

In the centre of the Place
close to the Baths,
Casino, Springs and Park



VILLA FOR FAMILIES

Newly built and furnished
with modern comfort and luxury

English Spoken

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This delicious Liquor, as remarkable for the delicacy of its perfume as for its powerfully tonic and digestive qualities, contains, besides the various virtues distilled from the plants composing it, all the active and salutary principles of the Vichy waters.

The Lozenges of the PP. Celestins of Vichy contain the same ingredients as the Liquor, and are sold in boxes bearing the mark of the Monastery.

Apply to Ed. LEFEBVRE

GENERAL AGENT, AT THE MONASTERY OF VICHY

Rue de Paris

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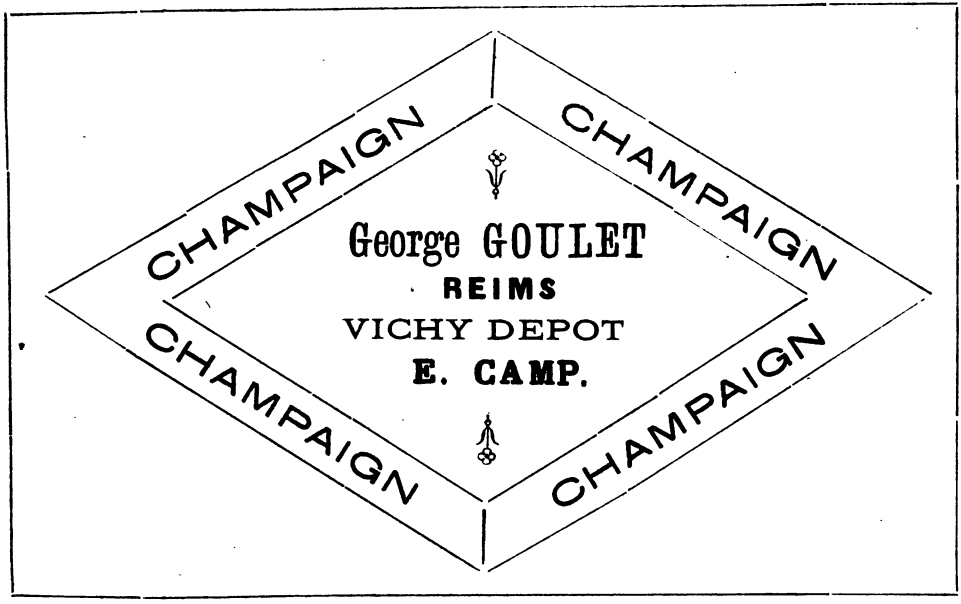

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E. CAMP

Rue de NIMES & Avenue de la Gare

PLACE DE LA CROIX DE LA MISSION

TRADESMAN

Of H. M. LEOPOLD, king of Belgium;
H. M. CHARLES XV. king of Sweden & Norway;
H. R. H. ISMAIL-PACHA, viceroy of Egypt;
H. R. H. the Duchess MARY of Russia.

ALL FINE WINES

GUARANTEED AUTHENTIC

BORDEAUX: Château-Lafite, Château-Margaux, Gruaud Larose, etc.
BURGUNDY: Romanée-Conti, Clos-Vougeot, Chambertin, Corton, Nuits, Beaune, etc
CHAMPAIGN: Ve Clicquot, Ponsardin & Werlé, Louis Rœderer, Moët & Chandon, George Goulet, etc.
Porto, Madeira, Malaga, Zucco, Cyprus, etc.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH SPIRITS

Martell's Cognac — Bass & Co's India Pale Ale — Gin. — Irish Whisky. — Scotch Whisky. — Punch, etc.

EPICERIE PARISIENNE

E. CAMP

ENGLISH GROCERY AND PROVISION WAREHOUSE

ALL KIND OF ENGLISH ARTICLES

Biscuits. — Pickles. — Potted Meats. — Jellies. — Mustard. — Cheese. — Marmelades, etc.

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Preserved fruit from Auvergne. — Sirups, etc.

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F^D DESBREST, Chemist

English and American Patent Medicines

Family and Dispensing Chemist

Homœopathic Dispensary — Perfumery

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BANQUE DE VICHY

H. Colombier & Pétilliat

Exchange of Money, Banknotes, etc.
Discount of Circular Notes and Letters of Credit
Proceeding from foreign Banks.

PLACE ROSALIE, CLOSE TO THE HOSPITAL BATHS

Office open from 9 to 11 A. M. and from 1 to 4 P. M.

ENGLISH SPOKEN

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IN CORRESPONDENCE

With the most important French and Foreign Banks

Payment of Cheques

Letters of Credit. — Circular Letters.

The highest exchange given

ON FOREIGN MONEY AND BANK-NOTES

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ENGLISH SPOKEN. — SE HABLA ESPANOL

TAILOR

V. BERGER

Rue Lucas

IN FRONT OF THE 1st CLASS ESTABLISHMENT

AND THE GRANDE-GRILLE

Large Selection of ENGLISH goods

ORDERS EXECUTED IN 24 HOURS

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"PRODUITS NATURELS DE VICHY"

First class PHARMACY A.-H. MERCIER

FAMOUS

Vichy Barley Sugar, Lozenges, Natural Salts, Chocolate and Sweets.

VICHY *2, 4, 6, rues Montaret & Lucas,*
Facing the Military Hospital.

LAITERIE HYGIÉNIQUE
DE VICHY

IN THE PARK

OPPOSITE THE RUE BURNOL

NEW MILK guaranteed perfectly PURE

MOST EFFICACIOUS

In case of DYSPEPSIA

The Dairy is open from 5 a. m. till 10 p. m.

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FANCY ARTICLES — ***A PYGMALION.*** Large "*Magasins de Nouveautés*,, Rue de Nîmes, facing the rue Sornin.

TAILOR. — ***BERGER AINÉ,*** rue Sornin, facing the "Cercle International.,,

SHOEMAKER. — ***AUX ÉLÉGANTS,*** rue Sornin, facing the "Cercle International.,,

SHOEMAKER { ***A L'OGRE,*** rue de Nîmes. ***A LA BOTTE ROUGE,*** the market.

ANTIQUARY. — ***BENOIST,*** rue Cunin-Gridaine & rue du Casino. Large exhibition of ancient articles of Art and Curiosity.

PASTRY. — ***BRESSON-DUPUY,*** rue Lucas, in front of the Military Hospital.

CAFÉ. — ***GRAND CAFÉ RICHE, MAISON DORÉE,*** first class Establishment, rue de Nîmes & rue Sornin.

CONFECTIONARY. — ***MOINET,*** place de l'Hopital.

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PREFACE

During a residence of fourteen years at Vichy as Professor of the French language and literature, I have each season had considerable intercourse with the Foreign gentry visiting the place, of whom many have expressed the opinion that an English Guide to Vichy would be a work of much utility. There are, it is true, French guides for this place; but, besides the difficulty of perfectly understanding books in a Foreign language, an English reader would find in none of them many indispensable particulars. In order to supply this want, I have undertaken the publication of this book. I have endeavoured to include all information that can possibly be serviceable to travellers, and I have done my best to express such information as briefly and clearly as possible.

To facilitate reference, I have divided my hand-book into three parts, the first of which contains mere information concerning the Waters, Baths, Physicians, etc; so as to spare the reader the trouble of running over the whole of the book to pick up such particulars as he may be in want of. The second part is almost only descriptive, and the third concerns the Environs.

How far I have succeeded in my purpose the Public will decide. Be this as it may, I shall be much obliged to those who, finding in my Vichy Guide any mistake or omission, will point such out to me. Their doing so would benefit both their fellow-patients and the thankful author.

Professor J.-F. GROS.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

THE HOTELS

Among the first class hotels of Vichy, we should particularly mention the following, as most frequented by English and American travellers, and also as highly recommendable in all respects :

Grand Hotel des Ambassadeurs,
Grand Hotel de Cherbourg,
Grand Hotel de la Paix,
Grand Hotel du Parc,
Grand Hotel des Bains,
Nouvel Hotel,
Grand Hotel Mombrun & du Casino.

All these houses overlook the Park and stand in the close vicinity of the Baths, the Springs and the Casino. Owing to their extended reputation, it is sometimes necessary, especially in the height

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of the season, to write in advance to the proprietors of any house where it is desired to obtain comfortable apartments.

It is impossible to quote the prices here, as charges depend upon the situation of the rooms. Generally both lodging and boarding at table d'hote may be had at from 15 to 20 francs per-day.

The second class hotels, though not commanding a view upon the Park, are generally situated at a short distance from the Bathing Establishment and are by no means to be disregarded for their attendance.

We may remark that every inhabitant of Vichy is, more or less, a landlord. There are but few who have not some furnished apartments to let, in the bathing season. Owing to this circumstance, lodgings are extremely abundant, and also, extremely cheap at Vichy. But it would not perhaps be prudent, for pecuniary considerations, to venture into some third rank houses, guid ed by the repre sentations of agents sent to the Saint-Germain station for purposes of recommending them. In good hotels the charges are always high enough to secure a good and comfortable attendance.

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LIST OF THE VICHY DOCTORS

Audhoui, 4, Maisons Anglaises.

Aurillac (✻), place de l'Hôpital.

Barudel, (O. ✻), 11, rue de Paris.

Biernawski, Villa de Varsovie, rue Lucas.

Bignon, place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville.

Blanchet, Villa du Prince de Galles, 10, rue de la Compagnie.

Carolus de La Salzède, Villa Maria, boulevard des Célestins.

Chailant, rue du Pont-Tillard.

Champagnat, chief physician of the civil Hospital, place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville.

Charnaux, 7, Maisons Anglaises.

Chopard, 40, rue de Nîmes (consultations in the English language).

Coignard (✻), chalet de Turenne, rue Alquié.

Collongues, 1 & 2, rue Alquié, Maisons Anglaises, (consultations in the English language).

Cornillon, assistant inspector-physician attached to the Baths, avenue de la Gare.

Cyr, assistant inspector-physician, 1, rue Prunelle.

De Lalaubie (✻), rue Prunelle.

Delcominette (✻), rue Strauss, villa Thénard.

Dupré, 1 & 2, Maisons Anglaises.

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DURAND-FARDEL (✻), inspector-physician of the Hauterive spring, rue du Parc (consultations in the English language).

DUROSIER, Villa des Marronniers, rue de Nîmes, place du Château-d'Eau.

FOLLET (✻), rue Lucas.

FOURNIER, 7, Maisons Anglaises.

GALLAND, villa des Eaux, rue de Nîmes.

GRELLETY, chalet Paturle, rue Prunelle.

HALBRON (✻), 8, rue Alquié.

LEJEUNE, rue de l'Etablissement.

LUGAGNE, rue Sornin.

MASSALOUP (✻), avenue Victoria, chalet Maridet.

MERLE, place Rosalie.

MILLET-LACOMBE, 18, rue de Nîmes.

NAVAULT, boulevard Victoria, maison Valery.

NICOLAS, assistant physician of the civil Hospital, rue de Nîmes.

PASSAQUAY, 41, rue Montaret.

PUPIER, Villa Strauss, rue Strauss.

RÉGNIER, place Rosalie.

ROUX, avenue de la Gare.

SÉMERIE, rue Strauss, villa Thénard.

SÉNAC, rue du Parc.

SOULIGOUX (✻), boulevard National, Villa Thérapia.

VERSEPUY, rue de Ballore.

VINDRIFF, rue de Paris, near the Station.

WILLEMIN (O. ✻), assistant inspector physician, in the Emperor's ancient chalet, boulevart National (consultations in the English language).

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NOTICE

Persons wishing to profit during their residence at Vichy by taking French lessons or haviny their children taught, may apply to Mr. Gros, Professor of the French language and literature, Terrace house, 48, rue de Nîmes.

DRINKING

The use of the Vichy waters, either at the Springs of the Estate or at the private Wells, is generally gratuitous.

Full glasses are delivered to the drinkers by female employés engaged for that purpose.

Crystal glasses can be had at the springs : they are kept for sale by the water givers.

Though nothing is paid for the water drunk at the Wells, the custom is to give something to the employés after the course of treatment, either for the baths or shower-baths, or for the use of the waters.

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Drinking time is usually before meals, from nine to ten in the morning, and from four to half past five in the afternoon.

*
* *

As it is sometimes necessary to mix the mineral water with wine to be drunk at meals, it may be brought gratuitously from the springs in decanters and used when and as one chooses.

But it cannot be put into bottles, the bottling of the Vichy waters being only for exportation either to other parts of France or to foreign countries.

BATHING

The first thing to be done by those wishing to get baths or douches at the Thermal Establishment is to present themselves at a special office for the Inscription of Bathers, at the N. extremity of the central gallery of the building.

They are then ranked in one of the series which are fixed in advance, according to the time left at the disposal of the bathing administration.

Tickets for both douches and baths are delivered at another wicket of the same office.

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We advise those desirous of taking their baths not to miss the time appointed for their accommodation. Should they happen so to do, their place is given to some other persons, and it is sometimes difficult, especially in the height of the season, to obtain another time for bathing.

BATHING SERIES

At the Vichy Thermal Establishment

In the morning	1st series	— 45 min. past 4
	2nd —	— 15 m. past 6
	3rd —	— 30 m. past 7
	4th —	— 45 m. past 8
	5th —	— 10 o'clock.
	6th —	— 15 min. past 11
In the afternoon	7th —	— 15 m. past 1
	8th —	— 30 m. past 2
	9th —	— 45 m. past 3

Any of these series can be suppressed, according to the needs of the bathing service.

The time for bathing is one hour and a quarter, including dressing; beyond this, the price of baths is doubled.

*
* *

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If anybody uses chemical ingredients which are not supplied by the administration, one franc more is charged for the deterioration of the bathing-tub.

TARIFFS OF THE BATHS

At the Vichy Thermal Establishment

	1st CLASS		2nd CLASS	
	French m.	English m.	French m	English m
Reserved Baths with a resting bed.....	5 f. »	0.4.0	»	»
Mineral Baths.....	2 50	0 2.0	1 f. 50	0.1.21/2
Fresh water Baths.....	1 50	0.1.21/2	1 »	0 0.10
Vapour-Baths.....	3 »	0.2.5	»	»
Hip-Baths.....	1 »	0.0.10	0 75	0.0.71/2
Gas (carbonic acid) Baths	1 »	0.0.10	»	»
Foot-Baths.....	0 50	0.0.5	0 30	0.0.3

NOTA. — Baths can be had AT HOME from five in the morning to six in the evening, on condition of paying two francs more than the above mentioned prices.

TARIFFS OF THE BATHS

At the Hospital Establishment

Same as before, except for

Reserved Baths with a resting bed...	4 fr.	0.3.2 1/2
Baths in piscina.....	2	0.1.7 1/2
Sulphurous Baths.....	3	0.2.5

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SHOWER-BATHS

The shower-baths are not arranged in series: they can be had at any time of the day, from the opening to the closing of the Establishment.

TARIFFS OF THE SHOWER-BATHS

At the Vichy Thermal Establishment

	1st CLASS		2nd CLASS	
Reserved Douches with a resting bed.....	5 f. »	0.4.0	»	»
Percussion Douches...	2 50	0.2.0	1 f. 50	0.1.21/2
Vapour-Douches.....	3 »	0.2.5	»	»
Cold Douches.....	1 50	0.1.21/2	1 »	0.0.10
Upward Douches.....	0 75	0.0.71/2	0 50	0.0.5
Vaginal Douches.....	0 50	0.0.5	0 40	0.0.4

Baths and shower-baths can be had at a lower price, WHEN TAKEN TOGETHER, OR AT SOME PARTICULAR HOURS OF THE DAY:

	1st CLASS		2nd CLASS	
Baths and Douches simultaneously taken.	4 f. 50	0.3.71/2	3 f. »	0.2.5
Baths or Douches, at the series of 10 o'cl., 11 1/4 and 1 1/4....	2 f. »	0.1.71/2	1 f. 25	0.1.0

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INHALATION SITTINGS

Inhalation sitting of Carbonic acid gas.	0 f.	50	0.0.5
Inhalation sitting of Oxygen gas.....	1	»	0.0.10
Inhalation sitting of Pulverized mineral water.....	1	»	0.0.10

As the custom is to give something to the employés for the bathing attendance, boxes are placed close to the offices of the chief-bathers, and the sums collected are divided among the staff of the Establishment at the end of each season.

A TRANSLATION OF THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS

OF THE THEATRE & CASINO

Art. 1st. — The Casino is open from May 15th to 30th of September, but the Ladies-saloon and Billiard-room are open to the Public till October 15th on condition of paying a supplementary sum of 50 centimes (5 pence) per-day, or 5 francs (4 shillings) for a fortnight.

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Art. 2nd. — The subscription to the Casino or the theatre lasts for one month. To become a subscriber it is necessary to be introduced by some respectable person known to the administration.

I. CASINO

Art. 3rd. — The subscription to the Casino gives right :

1° To the free admission to all rooms in the Casino, except the Ladies-saloon and Theatre ;

2° To the admission to balls and concerts of the season ;

3° To the gratuitous use of chairs in the Park, Célestins and other Promenades belonging to the Company.

Art. 4th. — Four times a-week a concert or a ball is given in the Concert-room of the Casino, from eight to ten in the evening.

Art. 5th. — The Company reserves to itself, once a-week, the use of the Ball-saloon and its dependances. On this day, which must be published two days in advance, subscribers are not entitled to admission. The price of admission is then fixed by the administration which communicates it to the representative of Government.

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Art. 6th. — The prices are as follows :

A subscription for one person.....	25 f.	»	1.0.0
A subscription for a child, below 15 years of age.....	10	»	0.8.0
One day admission, even on days of ball or concert.....	2	»	0 1.7 1/2

Art. 7th. — The Reading, Gaming and Billiard-saloons are open to subscribers, from seven o'clock in the morning to eleven at night, or sometimes even twelve, according to the demands of the season.

Art. 8th. — Smoking is forbidden in the Reading-room and Concert-saloon.

Art. 9th. — In the Reading-saloon, a sufficient quantity of political and literary papers and reviews is furnished for the use of subscribers.

Art. 10th. — The authorized games are those which are named society games; as Piquet, Ecarté, Whist, Boston, Besique, Tricktrack, Dominoes, Chess and Billiards.

Art. 11th. — The prices for games are as follows :

Whist.....	5 f.	»	0.4.0
Piquet.....	3	»	0.2.5
Ecarté.....	2	»	0.1.7 1/2
Billiards in the day, an hour.....	1	50	0.1.2 1/2
Billiards, at night, an hour.....	2	50	0.2.0
Dominoes, Tricktrack, Chess.....	1	»	0.0.10

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Art. 12th. — The changing of cards is obligatory every hour.

II. THEATRE

Art. 13th. — The subscription to the Theatre is distinct from that to the Casino.

Art. 14th.—Smoking is forbidden at the Theatre.

Art. 15th. — The prices of admission, on ordinary representation days, are settled as follows.

Admission (numbered stall).....	4 f.	»	0.3.2 1/2
Admission to a four places box.....	16	»	0.12.10
Subscription to the Theatre only for one person to numbered stall	45	»	1.16.0
One day admission to both the Casino and the Theatre.....	5	»	0.4.0
Subscription to both the Theatre and the Casino, one person.....	60	»	2 8.0
Family subscription, including either the husband and his wife, or one of them with a child.....	100	»	4.0 0

Art. 16th. — The extraordinary representations, viz. those in which Paris performers are to make their appearance, must be announced two days in advance. Placards and programmes will then indicate the special prices of both stalls and boxes.

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The tenant Company reserves to itself the use of the Theatre once a-week. On those days, which must be published two days in advance by placards giving information as to the price, SUBSCRIBERS' TICKETS CANNOT GENERALLY BE USED.

SUBSCRIPTION TICKETS

Art. 17th. — Subscription tickets, either to the Theatre or the Casino, are personal and must be shown whenever asked for by the officers of the tenant Company.

They are nominal, signed by their holders, and can be neither lent nor sold.

In case a ticket of which the date had expired should be made use of, or any person but the rightful owner should present it, the bearer would be charged for a subscription at the above mentioned prices, and the ticket would be taken from him.

Also the matter would be the object of an official report made by one of the sworn agents of the Company, and the offender sued according to the law.

Art. 18th. — The saloons of both the Casino and the Theatre must be closed at eleven o'clock at night or, at the latest, at twelve, according to special arrangements on particular occasions.

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VICHY

FIRST CLASS HOUSE

Nouvel Hotel

GUILLIERMEN

On the Park

OPPOSITE THE 1st CLASS BATHING HOUSE

Newly built and furnished
with all modern comfort and luxury.

SAFETY LIFT

150 ROOMS — 15 SALOONS

Dining-room containing 150 persons.

FAMILY APARTMENTS

AND PRIVATE ATTENDANCE

WIDE GARDEN — RESTAURANT

Omnibus service to the Station

FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPOKEN

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DESCRIPTIVE PART

VICHY

Vichy is certainly the most important watering-place in France. The number of its visitors, which was in 1870 about 25000, gradually increased to more than 35000 a-year, and has lately reached 40000. It is to be noticed that these latter years have been deeply agitated, and that the consequences of the public disasters which France has undergone were prejudicial to commerce. Yet Vichy did not suffer from any neglect.

Vichy owes its extended reputation to its celebrated mineral waters and pleasing situation. Of the Vichy waters we simply indicate the composition and localities, their peculiar uses being treated of in pamphlets which have been published by eminent physicians in several languages. The Vichy waters are now known, not only in France

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and Europe, but we dare say throughout the world. This celebrity is due to their ascertained efficacy in curing many painful diseases, such as Gout, Diabetes, etc. We need not however dwell on this subject.

Vichy is situated in the very centre of France, in connection, by the Saint-Germain station, with the most important railways and largest towns of our country. It belongs to the *Bourbonnais*, but stands on the limit of *Auvergne*, on the banks of the *Allier*, at about equal distances from *Moulins* and *Clermont*. Hills belonging to the *Forez* chain shelter Vichy from the northern winds, and the winters are generally mild; but the summers are exceedingly hot, especially during July and the first days of August. Therefore we should advise persons who dislike an extreme temperature not to venture to Vichy at this period of the year: the climate is particularly agreeable here in May, June, September and October; the conditions of thermal life are then much more comfortable than at other times.

The height of the season lasts for about two months: when all that is brilliant in French society makes this place its resort, Vichy is then most varied and attractive. The central alley of the Park is often compared to the promenade of

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the *Champs-Elysées*, at Paris. Certainly here are more extravagant toilets than can be met with anywhere else. This display is particularly remarkable at the Music Square, during the afternoon concert, in the Park and at the *Celestins*; but, as we purpose giving a particular description of each of those places, we would only notice that the presence of the hauton, and perhaps also of what we call " *le demi-monde* ,, communicates to Vichy a character of elegance and fashion which nothing can surpass.

There are two very distinct and different cities at Vichy, the new town and the old one. Old Vichy needs no description; it is what remains of the ancient village which Madame de Sévigné knew, and the dances of which amused her so much that she could not resist the temptation of giving some account of them in her letters. It is a dark, narrow, strange-looking old borough, and yet an archæologist would find nothing worth remarking there, but the *Tower* that stands as in expectation of an invisible enemy whose approach it seems to guess.

Old Vichy, as may be imagined, has but very few visitors. However necessity obliges some bathers to reside there, who could hardly find lodgings elsewhere in the season, or who are not

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in a position to make better provision for their comfort. This old city has witnessed several events of our national History, as we shall see.

Turning to the new town, its development has followed the necessities of thermal life. We are struck by an appearance of cleanness and gaiety; the streets are wide, straight and sunny, adorned with newly built monuments and comfortable-looking hotels; the inhabitants appear healthy and cheerful. Nearly all the public buildings are grouped in the neighbourhood of the Casino; all the first class houses look into the Park. This modern city has surrounded the old one, and adorned it with a wreath of green and flowers.

The first aspect of Vichy is remarkably pleasing, on account of the quantity of trees which are to be seen in all directions. Many villas and chalets are positively lost in the green. All principal streets and alleys are edged by blossoming trees, that pleasantly shade the way. Both the ancient and new Parks, by the variety of their plants and flowers, add completeness to the beauty of the scene.

The immediate neighbourhood is devoid of rugged picturesqueness, and visitors vainly look for the snow-crowned mountains and noisy waterfalls that are admired in Switzerland. Yet pictu-

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resque views are extremely abundant in Auvergne which, as we mentioned, stands on the borders of the Vichy territory. We knew some bathers who gave up, for a fortnight, the thermal treatment at Vichy, to go on an excursion through Auvergne, and who, after a very pleasant tour, came back to the *Grande-Grille* or the *Célestins*. This country is perhaps the richest in natural curiosities of any in France.

But the country about Vichy has a remarkable character of serene beauty. The soil, which is extremely fertile, produces an abundance of fruit of all kinds which appear, perhaps with some honour, on the tables of the hotels during the Bathing season. Geologists explain this extraordinary fertility by the volcanic constitution of the ground. It is not for us to pronounce any judgement on the matter. Whatever may be the cause, it breaks out into a blossoming vegetation that gives the country the appearance of a garden.

When, from the surrounding hills, a tourist casts a glance on the peaceful city that lies in the valley, its white houses, coquette villas and picturesque chalets embowered in green, he understands that, while Vichy may be sometimes the most useful, it is always the most delightful of summer abodes.

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VICHY IN HISTORY

There is a controversy on the origin of Vichy; there is also a dispute on the very name it bears. Some give as a fact that it is drawn from the Roman word *Vicus Calidus*, hot borough; but one writer filled a large volume in order to establish on irrefutable arguments another opinion; and, as it is always dangerous to have a controversy with a person who can write books on such a trifle, I must leave the matter unsettled. Whatever be the root of the name, the origin of Vichy may be traced to the most remote antiquity. Unfortunately it is difficult, if not impossible, to settle a date, as the feats relating Vichy are inscribed neither in the pages of History, nor on monuments of any kind. Its ancient glory is not even testified to by ruins, as in many other places, for its ruins have been buried under the soil.

The railway works, undertaken of late, brought to light some very interesting remains. Many

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objects were found that prove the existence of Vichy, as a watering-place, in old Roman times. A workman discovered some Arvernian coins with Vercingetorix'effigy, according to which Vichy appears to have been inhabited before the Roman conquest, and the old Gallians had some appreciation of its mineral waters. At all events, there has been, in the very place occupied by the modern city, a Gallo-Roman town which now lies under grass, and the existence of which was scarcely guessed until last century.

Among the objects lately found, we may notice a large quantity of Roman coins, belonging to all epochs of the Empire; several small statues of Gods and Monarchs, some burying places, graves with bones in them (many of the dead bodies having an obolus in their mouths), mosaïcs, broken columns, the remains of an aqueduct, a piscina and a Roman way. These remains are now carefully collected, but, when the works commenced, how many of them were disdained by ignorance or even destroyed by stupidity!

If those objects constitute a proof of the existence of a city, they are perhaps insufficient to enlighten us on the history of this city through the course of ages. Most of the ruins have been found in the N. and E. parts of Vichy; so that

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the Gallo-Roman city seems to have extended towards *Cusset*, to a place named *Ville aux Juifs*. Judging from those data, it embraced a larger space than Vichy does now.

It was at one time proposed to collect these objects, which have some historical interest, in a local Museum, to aid the study of the origin and history of *Vicus Calidus*, but this scheme was not carried on, owing to pecuniary considerations, though the principal collectors proposed to give up their objects for a paltry sum : a difficulty arose from the expense of building a Museum. We regret it extremely, and have heard many Foreigners express their disappointment. Archæologists indeed are obliged, should they wish to visit these discoveries, to apply to private collectors who are in possession of them. We have seen, at the house of a collector, a very fine statue of Pomona, several antique vases and Roman weapons, and, what was particularly remarkable, an ivory chair, exquisitely carved, which must have belonged to one of the Roman governors in Gaul. The owner of those objects offered several suggestions concerning their origin, the repetition of which would however occupy too much of our present space.

What became of Vichy during the Barbarian invasion, nobody knows ; but very probable it is

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that the prosperity of *Vicus Calidus* was the cause of its ruin, as it offered a rich prey to the invaders. The storm which burst over the country swept away *Vicus Calidus*, and rased it to the ground. Nothing remained standing; all Roman traces were lost. According to a legend the authenticity of which it would perhaps be difficult to discover, Attila's horse drank at the *Grande-Grille*. Since grass grew no more under this horse's cursed feet, it is astonishing enough that the place was not immediately struck with aridity. Unfortunately for this legend, History does not agree with it, as the Barbarian king seems to have never reached this part of Gaul. Attila was not the only pillager of that period, but, as there is some connection between the idea of a sweeping devastation and this terrible conqueror's name, the destruction of *Vicus Calidus* may have given birth to the Attila legend.

Whatever we may think of Attila's horse and the *Grande-Grille*, Vichy slept in the dust of oblivion for centuries. It slowly rose from its grave; but how different was now its fate from what it had been in the Gallo-Roman times! " The Middle-Age, said a writer, drew it from its grave to cover it with iron ,, . The fact is that the prosperity of old times was over now, and that Vichy

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had to force its way, like many other cities, through the disasters brought on by the events that took place in France. We hardly know anything of the first phase of its resurrection. It reappears for the first time in History about the year 1200; but it is already in the power of a baron and, some time after, it is grasped by a king of France. The iron life had begun for the unfortunate little city.

An historian, Nicolaï, gives us an abundant description of the warlike apparatus of Vichy in the XVth century. It was composed of several towers and walls that perhaps made Vichy not an easy prey for ambition, but excited rivalry among the neighbouring barons who fought for its possession. The proximity of Auvergne and the bridge that Vichy possessed over the Allier rendered the place more particularly desirable: it was called the key of Auvergne. This situation was the cause of the numerous misfortunes it had to undergo.

It would be perfectly tiresome to give a long account of these miseries. Nicolaï wrote on this subject several books which it is not my intention to translate. An English reader would not be interested in the tyrants who successively besieged and pillaged Vichy. But there is one historical act of some importance in which our city

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was involved, that may prove of interest. Vichy had a share in the Praguerie war, between the king Charles VII and his son Louis. It appears that the warlike town aided with the rebellion, and fought against the monarch. But, in spite of the towers and walls so much praised by Nicolaï, the town, besieged by a French army, was soon reduced to submission. The King proved indulgent enough to give a solemn promise of neither pillaging nor murdering the inhabitants.

Some time after, a reconciliation took place between the father and the son : a neighbouring burgh, *Cusset*, was the place chosen te settle the conditions of the treaty.

Religious wars found the city hardly recovering from civil dissensions. During the Ligue, it was several times taken and retaken both by the Lutherans and the Catholics. It would have not resisted so many blows but for its advantageous situation on a wide river, in a fertile country that pointed it out as a place to be inhabited. It was perhaps also saved from destruction by the presence of a monastery, belonging to the Celestins Friars, which gave its name to one of the most celebrated springs at Vichy.

This convent, as many monasteries at that time, grew exceedingly rich, and yet its fortune was

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tied to that of Vichy: it had, like the town itself, many trials to undergo and was twice plundered by the Huguenots. But it rapidly rose from its ruins: under the reign of Henry IV, it was more opulent than over.

Among many other privileges, it had acquired the sacred right of asylum, which conferred to the abbé the licence of saving a culprit who should take refuge in the church of the monastery, by the simple fact of covering him with its protection.

Towards the end of the reign of Louis XV, a traitor sought a refuge in the Celestins'church. But the officers of justice pursued him there and took hold of him, notwithstanding the indignant protestations of the monks. The king, then, suppressed the asylum right and the convent which enjoyed it. This royal order had more effect than the various trials it had suffered before; the convent never recovered from so heavy a blow.

One monastery was a quite insufficient thing for a city at that time: therefore Vichy numbered two of them, the Celestins convent and another for the sick Friars of the Capucins'congregation. Of the former nothing remains but an old house built on the rock of the Celestins, which is the dwelling of a gardener. The latter no longer

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exists ; yet its chapel is said to have been an oratory to Mesdames Victoire and Adelaïde de France, during their stay at Vichy.

It may be imagined that the Vichy waters were completely forgotten or disdained by the conquerors of Gaul. As far as the XVIIth century, there is no notice of them in books : the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood used them and perhaps knew something of their salutary effects, but very far was this incomplete knowledge from medical truth. Besides, men who boasted their inability to read or write were hardly likely to study chemistry. The problem of the composition of the Vichy waters was to be resolved by modern science.

Vichy would have been most probably ignored for some time longer but for a fortuitous circumstance. Madame de Sévigné happened to be suffering from rheumatism. She exquisitely describes her pains in several of her letters to her daughter. Physicians at the king's court were, it appears, very long uncertain whether to send the patient to Vichy or Bourbon. At last Vichy prevailed, but for considerations of a quite worldly character.

Madame de Sévigné went there, and was very

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pleased to find that chickens could be obtained at two pence each, and that the inhabitants of the country danced nimbly the *Bourrée*. She could not help expressing her admiration of a brook which has since lost much of its picturesque beauty, the *Sichon*. She expressed all this in her letters. A learned book on Vichy would have found no reader; Madame de Sévigné's letters did. People at court were extremely amused by her rural descriptions, and Vichy was drawn from its obscurity. Such was the origin of its modern reputation.

Yet it does not appear that Madame de Sévigné brought at first many visitors to Vichy. The courtiers laughed at her wit and admired exceedingly the natural beauties she described, but did not hasten to follow her example by getting and then curing rheumatisms. Court was a more pleasant abode than Vichy; the writer herself did not turn a rustic as far as to forget feasts at Versailles. She pleasantly mingled world and nature in her descriptions. Her letters on Vichy are very interesting and we should insist upon their being read in French by such Foreigners as can do it: they would lose much of their vivacity by translation.

Scientific men completed the worldly woman's work. Vichy had been pointed out as a delightful resting place; doctors directed their inquiries to

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another matter. Several of the most illustrious wrote learned pamphlets on the waters and highly recommanded them to their invalids. We should particularly mention Doctor Fouet and Doctor Lucas who, on account of his friendly intercourse with a royal family, was able to do great service to our place ; but let us resume our account.

Louis XIV conceded to the inhabitants the gratuitous use of the waters and baths; his successor's only action in regard to Vichy was to molest the Celestins Friars and suppress their convent; but Mesdames Victoire and Adelaïde de France were amiable and powerful benefactresses. They traced *Mesdames Alley* and built the gallery where the *Grande-Grille* springs: this was the beginning of the Bath Establishment.

Silently Vichy crossed the revolutionary period, but Napoleon, busy as he was about his military plans, did not forget our town. He found time, during the Russian campaign, in 1812, to give orders to lay out a Park, and Vichy was thus endowed with one of the most magnificent promenades in the province.

Napoleon had come to Vichy, when a young officer of the French army: local documents show his signature. This circumstance explains

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his interest in the prosperity of a town that would have found him indifferent, had he been a perfect stranger to it; he never came to Vichy during the period of his glory.

Soon after, the duchess of Angoulême, daughter of Louis XVI, was induced to visit our city, which was yet but a borough, by Doctor Lucas, who obtained from her the sum necessary for the construction of a Bath establishment. So was laid the first stone of the monument described a few pages farther on.

The construction of the Baths was certainly a most important fact with regard to the local prosperity. Yet it was not enough to make Vichy what it is now, and modern Vichy begins truly with the second Empire.

During several summer seasons Napoleon III came here, and he did much to embellish the town.

The river had no quays. On the days of swelling, floods were furiously brought up to the Celestins, and mixed into the mineral springs. When the Allier retired, it left behind itself ponds of stagnating water, which exhaled pestilence in the whole neighbourhood; the S. part of Vichy was perpetually exposed to danger from those emanations. Napoleon resolved to take off the poisonous ponds by raising a stone embankment. Enormous

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works were carried out: The river was driven off to its own bed, and the grounds which it had covered with its floods were changed into a luxuriant garden. The creation of new Park was, in truth, a conquest over the Allier.

Within the course of about fifteen years, the new city was built, wide streets were open, dark-shadowed alleys were traced. Vichy was endowed with a Station, a Post and Telegraph office, a Church, a Town-Hall and all its first class houses. Buildings seemed to rise from ground: this was a period of feverish activity. The price of land was raised to ten times its real value; every one became a landlord or wished to be; chalets and villas appeared as in a fairyland. Industrious persons discovered and managed new springs. The Vichy tenant Company created the second class Bath Establishment and the Casino. Many sovereigns visited the city, which was since called the " Queen of the French watering-places. ,,

Whatever the Emperor's faults may have been, it cannot be denied that Vichy owes him much of its present prosperity. We shall not judge him as a Frenchman; as a Vichyman, we are indebted to him: gratitude is for us all a duty, and we should be contemptible to disavow it, under pretence that the object of it has been culpable and unfortunate.

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If the Gallo-Roman period left nothing at Vichy but under-grass ruins, the Middle-Age was scarcely more fortunate. The most ancient houses in old Vichy do not date earlier than the XVIth century. Of Nicolaï's walls nothing is left standing. People formerly showed an antique gate, named *Porte de France;* some local necessities caused it to be removed.

In short, very few particulars of the Vichy existence are engraved in monuments; we should however except two buildings that recall the past, viz: the Tower, that we mentioned before, and Madame de Sévigné's dwelling, which brings to memory a sweet image and poetic accents. Madame de Sévigné is to Vichy like a gentle goddess, whose smiling face beams over its birth, as an angelic figure over a child's bower.

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THE BATH ESTABLISHMENTS

I

As it is said above, the *first class Bath Establishment* was founded, in 1820, by Doctor Lucas, under the auspices of the duchess of Angoulême. Its is a wide parallelogram, without statues or architectural ornaments of any kind.

It stands in the N. part of the Park, opposite the Casino, to which it is joined by a bitumen alley. From N. to S., it is crossed by a walking gallery, that gives access to corridors leading to the Bath rooms. At the N. extremity of the gallery is the *Inscription Office*, at which bathers are invited to present themselves in order to deliver their names and get tickets. The *Puits Chomel* faces the Inscription office. The S. part of the Establishment contains the *Carbonic acid Inhalation room.*

Another gallery crosses the N. front of the building; two of the most important Vichy springs, *Mesdames* and the *Grande-Grille*, rise under it. Both galleries are always, but particularly at drinking-time, crowded with people.

The first class Thermal Establishment includes, besides the Carbonic acid Inhalation room above mentioned, 100 Bathing cabins and 16 cabinets

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for Douches. The W. side belongs to men, and the E. to ladies.

The first floor apartments of the House were formerly used for the season concerts, but, from the construction of the Casino, their use as such was given up. The rooms are occupied by the offices of the administration.

II

The *second and third class Bath Establishment* stands at a few yards from the first. It is a quite modern building, as it was constructed, in 1860, by the Vichy tenant Company. A small square with green shrubs and seats for bathers shades the E. front of the house.

The second class Bath rooms, which are 180 in number, besides the cabins for Douches or Carbonic acid Inhalations, are very clean and comfortable; they are chiefly frequented by persons of the middle class Poor people only apply at the third rate office. Baths can be had gratuitously by the inhabitants of Vichy who prove sick and by some of the religious orders who are supposed not to be rich enough to pay for them.

III

The *Hospital Baths* are situated Rosalie square, by the side of the *Hospital Spring*, at a few yards S. from the Casino.

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This establishment was founded, in 1820, as an annex to the Baths, under the auspices of Doctor Lucas; it was completely restored in 1875.

The Bath rooms in the Hospital Establishment are about 30 in number, besides a piscina and several cabins for Douches.

*
* *

The principal annex to the Bath Establishment of Vichy faces the first and second class Houses: it includes halls for the fabrication of the Vichy lozenges and barley-sugar, and others for linen bleaching, drying, etc. Another place for the exportation of the waters may be, perhaps with some interest, visited near the Station, on the way to Cusset.

We should now mention the *Bathing* and *Hydrotherapic* Establishments LARDY and LARBAUD AINÉ, which belong to the " Compagnie Générale d'Eaux minérales et de Bains de mer. „

Both are situated Boulevard des Celestins, near the Allier, at the S. extremity of Vichy, and afford a precious resource to the bathers living at some distance from the other establishments.

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SOURCE LARDY

VICHY. — Rue de Nimes. — VICHY.

The mineral Spring LARDY, gaseous, alkaline and the only ferruginous one; is ranked among the best of the place, as proved by the analysis made by order of Government.

It is successfully used against diseases of the Liver and Spleen, Bladder Catarrh, Chlorosis, Gravel, Calculi, Diabetes, Dyspepsia, Chronic Gastro-Enteritis, Gout, Obstinate Fevers, Stomach Heaviness, etc.

Comparative analysis of the Vichy waters and the opinions of physicians on the water of the Source Lardy will be sent to such as will write free.

BATHING AND HYDROTHERAPIC

ESTABLISHMENT

Open from the 15th of May to the 30th of Sept.

For all orders and information, apply to the

" Regisseur de la Source Lardy "

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SOURCE LARBAUD AINÉ

Boulevard des Célestins, Vichy

Recommended for exportation

The SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS shows that this is the water least affected by EXPORTATION : in it all the constitutive elements of the Vichy Waters retain their original conditions and properties, even after the longest voyage.

It is successfully used against :

Liver and Spleen diseases, Bladder catarrh, Chlorosis, Gravel, Calculi, Diabetes, Dyspepsia, Gastro-Enteritis, obstinate Fevers, Gout, Stomach heaviness, etc.

Apply, for the waters of this spring, to the " Regisseur ,, at the office, Boulevart des Célestins.

THERMAL AND HYDROTHERAPIC

ESTABLISHMENT

OF THE SOURCE LARBAUD AINÉ

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THE SPRINGS

The principal springs of the Vichy basin are 17 in number, of which 11 belong to the Vichy tenant Company, 2 to the " Compagnie Générale d'Eaux minérales et de Bains de mer ,, , 2 to the " Compagnie des Eaux de Cusset-Vichy ,, and 2 to a private owner.

I

The Company's springs are :

Grande-Grille
Puits Chomel
Mesdames
} Rising in the galleries of the first class Establishment;

Puits Carré, gushing up in the subsoils of the same Establishment, used of for baths only;

Puits Lucas, at a small distance E. from the Baths, rue Lucas, facing the Military Hospital;

Source du Parc, in the Park, at about equal distances from the Baths and the Casino;

Source de l'Hôpital, Rosalie square, close to the Civil Hospital and the Bath Establishment of same name;

Célestins, near the banks of the river, at about half a mile from the principal Establishment.

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The Celestins springs are three in number : the *Source de la Grotte*, the *Vieille Source*, and the *Nouvelle Source ;*

Source d'Hauterive, springing at about three miles from Vichy, in a small village embellished with a Park and frequently visited by Foreigners.

II

Springs belonging to the " Compagnie Générale d'Eaux minérales et de Bains de mer ,, :

Source Lardy, rue de Nîmes, at the S. extremity of Vichy, in the midst of a luxuriant garden.

Source Larbaud aîné, boulevard des Célestins, in front of the New Park, near the Célestins.

III

Springs belonging to the " Compagnie des Eaux de Cusset-Vichy ,, :

Sources Elisabeth and *Sainte-Marie*, at Cusset.

IV

Private Springs. — *Source Prunelle*, place Lucas ; *Source Saint-Yorre*, situated at a distance of almost six miles from Vichy, in a small village which joins the frontier of the department.

Both belong to Larbaud junior.

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AN APPRECIATION

OF THE VICHY WATERS

After this nomenclature of the Vichy mineral springs, it would be only right to continue with a classification. Of the sources, those issuing of themselves on the surface of the ground are called *Natural Springs;* for example, the Grande-Grille, the Hopital, etc.; the others, on the contrary, like the Puits Chomel, have been imprisoned in pipes from the very bottom of the earth, and forced up, like *Artesian Wells.* But this difference does not prove any superiority in the properties of the former, as various impurities might become mixed with their waters; whilst the latter being protected from ambiant liquids or particles, are preserved from the danger of getting impurities into their composition. Therefore the classification of the Vichy waters into natural springs and artesian wells has no object.

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Another task consists in classing them into *hot* or *cold* springs, according to their temperature: the hot waters are generally recommended, when taken at the source, and the cold waters are best for exportation. The nature of their composition, indeed, preserves them from the danger of losing anything of their properties by transportation; but the hot waters, by the mere fact of turning cold, do not remain such as they were, when springing from the earth, and an important quality of theirs is lost doing so. The difference of temperature between the hot and the cold springs is open to dispute. To avoid it, we give the list of the most important springs of Vichy with their temperature:

1°	Puits Carré.....	45°	centigr.
2°	Puits Chomel.....	44°	—
3°	Grande-Grille.....	42°	—
4°	Source de l'Hôpital..	31°	—
5°	Puits Lucas.....	29°	—
6°	Source du Parc.....	22°	—
7°	Puits Lardy.....	18°	—
8°	Mesdames.....	16°	—
9°	Source Larbaud ainé.	15°	—
10°	Hauterive.....	14°	—
11°	Celestins.....	14°	—

In fact, the Grande-Grille and the Hopital are

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generally drunk by the invalids at Vichy, whilst Hauterive and the Celestins are chiefly exported.

The most abundant springs are :

1° Puits Carré...	252,000	bottles	per-day.
2° Grande-Grille.	98,000	—	—
3° Hôpital.....	60,000	—	—
4° Célestins.....	24,000	—	—
5° Mesdames....	20,000	—	—

As for the chemical composition of the Vichy waters, it is evident enough that their common origin does not admit great differences in their properties. Yet, though it would be deceitful to attribute to each of them in particular a special curative virtue, it would be wrong to leave their choice to the patient. Though the chief differences of the composition in the Vichy springs are perhaps but a higher or lower degree in temperature, they ought not to be made a wrong use of. We daily behold the terrible consequences that attend such mistakes. It is easy to conceive that, out of the properties of a spring, many considerations are necessary for a successful treatment, concerning age, sex, temperament, etc. A source may be recommended to a person in particular, whose constitution can support it easily, and the same water, drunk by another person, may have quite a

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contrary effect. It is as dangerous to go beyond the aim as to not reach it.

Physicians are the only judges of what must be done. It would be imprudent to undertake one's own cure without their advice; when commenced, the cure should be continued under their direction, and the choice of suitable springs, fixed by them. Their medical knowledge is aided by large practice and experience.

Another frequent occurrence in thermal life is that of patients who come here with the purpose of drinking as much water as possible. They are persuaded that the larger quantity of liquid they absorb, the more rapid and complete the recovery is. It is the contrary, as it has been proved that, in many cases, two or three glasses a-day (more or less, according to the Doctor's directions) are sufficient to relieve the patient, and sometimes to cure him entirely. Drinking at home exported waters may present no danger, because they are not so strong as when taken at the spring; but the use of them at Vichy is never to be regarded as a trifle.

Also, many persons entertain the idea that the ordinary course of twenty days is an exact measure of the thermal treatment for all invalids and diseases. This number was fixed on as an

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average for most patients coming to Vichy, because it has been observed that is was usually sufficient, if not to produce a complete recovery, at least te procure a sensible relief from pain. But it would be ridiculous to set this length of time as an absolute rule to every individual case. It is evident, indeed, that all invalids are not in the same stage of disease, and that such remedies as prove perfectly sufficient to check the malady at its beginning, would have but little effect upon it, when it has acquired a graver form. A twenty days treatment is considered to be always necessary, but not always sufficient. A doctor's advice is, in this circumstance also, the surest guide to bathers. As he is the best judge of the quantity of water that must be drunk, he is also the person best qualified to fix upon the number of baths or douches which are to be taken.

Generally the best method for Foreigners who are unable to come to Vichy every year is to go on with the treatment as long as possible, so as to render it unnecessary to recommence it. Many Englishmen are now in the habit of having two seasons a-year, one in May and the other in September, and of spending the interval in Switzerland or in such other country as suits them. This method is, it appears, successfully practised.

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THE CASINO

The Casino stands in the S. extremity of the Park, facing the first class Establishment. It was built, in 1865, after Mr. Badger's plans and, on July 2th of the same year, inaugurated with much ceremony.

We should mention, among other ornaments which are worth remarking, Carrier Belleuse's statue and the N. front of the edifice.

Belleuse's statue represents a Nymph with an urn upon her shoulder and two babies at her feet: one of them holds out a shell to catch the falling water, whilst the other is lying amidst reeds.

The front of the monument is of a very remarkable appearance, and has a verandah overlooking a fine garden, enclosed by an elegant iron palisade and embellished with foreign plants and flowers. Evening concerts are given three times a-week, under the verandah, by the orchestra belonging to the theatre.

Both sides of the N. front of the Casino are decorated with large statues representing the Seasons of the Year, dressed in their allegorical attributes.

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The building is divided into two parts by a central corridor running from E. to W. and giving admission to the rooms. The N. part includes:

The *Ladies-saloon*,
The *Concert-room*,
The *Reading-room*.

The S. part contains:

The *Billiard-room*,
The *Theatre*,
The *Gaming-room*.

We shall give a short description of each.

The Ladies-saloon (salon des Dames) is a conversation room in which ladies meet and follow their usual pastimes. There is in this saloon an excellent piano-forte with a good collection of music books.

The Concert-room (salon des Fêtes) is, after the theatre, the most splendid hall in the building. It opens both on the central gallery and the verandah, which is properly a part of the room. Being as spacious as it is beautifully decorated, it is the place assigned to evening concerts and season balls; but it must be remarked that, whilst around the verandah there is always a crowd, the balls rarely succeed in exciting much animation.

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The Reading-room (salon de Lecture) would be rightly named the library of the Casino, as papers of all nations and in all languages (French, English, Italian, Russian, Spanish, etc.) are put at the disposition of the readers; also many illustrated publications and reviews. Any one may here find all possible means of information.

The Reading-room is furnished with writing-materials, so that those desirous of writing can do so, and have their letters carried to the Post office by a boy who is employed for that purpose. In the early hours of the day, when papers are just received, this room presents a most animated and picturesque sight.

The Billiard-room (salle de Billards) is frequented, of course, by billiard players. The number of tables disposed in the room is sufficient for the numerous amateurs who, at every hour of the day, are flocking around them.

The Gaming-saloon is the place for playing. Bets are frequently made there by the by-standers; yet, as games of mere chance are prohibited, Vichy not being a gaming city, like Monaco and others, this is only an amusement and cannot be attended with disastrous consequences.

The Theatre (salle de Théâtre) is spacious enough to contain about 1,200 persons. A view

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of the entire stage can be had from every part of the house, and people can distinctly hear performers. So nicely it is decorated that it ranks among the first class provincial theatres.

There is but one director for both orchestra and theatre at the Casino. The reputation of this gentleman as a musician is highly deserved, and the choice of the persons composing the orchestra proves always successful. We need not dwell on this subject, for the reputation of the Vichy concerts extends far beyond the limits of our little town. We have had frequent opportunities of discussing this topic with Foreigners, and all of them agree in paying full justice to the manager's merit and his excellent arrangements.

Two public concerts are given every day, in the music squares, by the orchestra : the one, in the morning, from half past eight to half past nine, and the other, in the afternoon, from half past two to half past three. A third concert takes place, three times a-week, at eight o'clock in the evening, under the verandah ; and sometimes, in the height of the season, other entertainments are arranged by the tenant Company who secure the aid of both the orchestra and the singers engaged at the theatre.

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The plays generally performed at the theatre are popular ones. All actual things recently acted at Paris and having obtained some success, are, during the following summer season, brought to the Vichy stage. We have the usual performers acting every day; and star-actors, belonging to the first Paris houses, are engaged now and then, in the height of the season, to give special performances. Among the many celebrated persons we have had an opportunity of seeing at Vichy, we should mention la Patti, Sarah Bernhardt, Faure, Miolan Carvalho, Judic, Théo, Granier, Favart, Madeleine Brohan, Nathalie, Pasca, Coquelin, Febvre, Bressant, Worms, etc.; in short, nearly all the *étoiles* of the Opera, the Opéra-Comique and the Comédie-Française.

Besides the dramatic plays, the Opera reappears every year on the stage of the Casino. We have Opera singers, just as Comedy players, with chorus and scenery The stage is spacious enough to admit a full display of such operas as *Faust*, the *Favorite*, the *Huguenots*, etc. But comic operas, like the *Dame Blanche*, *Mignon*, etc., are most generally represented.

The Casino is open from the 1st of May to the middle of October: the theatrical representations begin on the 15th of May and continue until the

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30 th of September. The operas do not commence before the 1st of June, and do not continue beyond the 15th of September. The period for extraordinary representations with Paris performers is from the middle of June to the end of August, about once a-week, more or less, according to the quantity of visitors and the opportunities of engaging celebrated actors. The morning and afternoon concerts in the open air last from the 1st of June to the 30th of September.

EDEN-THEATRE

Another theatre " *Eden* ,, was built Place Lucas, facing the Military Hospital, and inaugurated in July 1882.

It is an elegant building where eccentric performers act various plays of that sort which is successfully represented at the " *Folies-Bergères* ,, in Paris.

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MONUMENTS

THE TOWN-HALL

Was built in 1865 by the Emperor's architect, Mr. Lefaure, on one side of an open square, and looks both into the new Park and a nice garden, embellished with a fountain, fine flowers and luxuriant trees. Its situation is charming, at a few yards only from the Casino and the Music square, in the most animated part of the town.

It has neither the style nor the proportions of a public monument, and is completely wanting in architectural ornament of any sort. "Its façade, said a wit, is naked and cold like an official publication.,, In fact, it looks like a common country-house and gives no indication at all of its object. The French flag, that is usually seen waving over such edifices in other cities, never appears at the top of the Vichy Town-Hall, but on solemn occasions.

Besides the rooms used as offices, a voting-hall and a council chamber, it contains a public library and the police office. The chief of the police at Vichy is especially intrusted with the surveillance

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of the Gaming-room in the Casino; subaltern agents see to the execution of the local police rules. It must be said that Vichy is an extremely quiet town and never partook of civil dissensions or revolutionary fever.

THE HOSPITALS

There are two hospitals at Vichy: one is devoted to the civil invalids, and the other, to the officers and soldiers of the French army, who need the Vichy waters and whom, under the military physicians' direction, the war-office sends to take a course of bath treatment.

I. The civil Hospital

Is situated in Rosalie square, by the side of the spring, near the Park and the Casino, from which it is separated but by a wall.

It includes a large building, several halls, a chapel looking into the square, and a gratuitous school for girls, which is, like the hospital itself, placed under the direction of nuns. All this makes a very large ensemble. The chief of the administration of the civil hospital is the mayor of Vichy,

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and the establishment itself is placed under the town-council's protection for the preservation of its rights.

The hospital is open during the whole year to the indigent people of 16 parishes round about Vichy. Besides invalids, it affords a shelter to 26 old persons and 56 children belonging to the same parishes; also, during the bathing season, it puts 90 beds at the disposition of poor invalids coming from various departments. Previous information is obtained to prevent admission to the hospital of such as are capable of paying for their treatment, and thus taking the places meant for the poor.

The square before the hospital has been rearranged and has gained in convenience what it has lost in picturesqueness. Formerly dealers of all kinds filled the square with various articles and made it a competitor of the Market-place. Now all these open air tradesmen gather to one central point for business, their transactions taking place around the first class Establishment.

II. The Military Hospital

Is also a large establishment of public utility, including a principal building with rooms for officers and men, several halls for the needs of

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the service, a private bath and shower-bath establishment, a garden and a barrack. Its faces the springs *Lucas* and *Prunelle*, and is only a few yards distant from the first class Baths.

This hospital receives no patients but military men: 120 rooms are for the use of officers and 60 common rooms or dormitories are for that of sergeants, corporals and soldiers. The bath season to the hospital begins 1st of May and lasts until 30th of September, and such is the organization of the services that, in this course of time, 600 officers and 300 men are admitted every year to treatment.

A chief-officer is intrusted with the superintendance of the whole establishment, and several military doctors attend to both officers and men.

The Vichy military hospital is renowned as one of the largest and finest in France.

THE CHURCHES

Vichy is in possession of two catholic churches and one protestant, not including the chapel of the hospital and a little oratory belonging to the Franciscan nuns, rue de la Chaume.

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Saint-Louis Church stands in the rue de Nîmes, at a small distance from the Park. It is a gift of Napoleon III. Constructed in 1862, it is ministered to by priests from the Lazarists' congregation.

Of its architectural character we have very little to say, because it has, as we think, no character at all. Some critics maintain that the architect, when he drew the plan of this church, was evidently thinking of a theatre. We find such a judgement rather severe, but not quite undeserved. The appearance of the church, indeed, is as far as possible from the religious type presented by monuments of this sort in many French and German cities. It is said to belong to the Roman style: so it may be; but, whatever its general form and dispositions are, nothing can excuse the daub with which its inside walls are covered. Such ornaments would perhaps be nice enough in a quite worldly edifice; while in a church, they are perfectly ridiculous.

The exterior aspect of the monument has nothing remarkable, except two fellow-towers, objects of mark to those who climb the hills about Vichy. No ornamental work but some sculptured figures of a rather artless execution; no valuable painting inside. It is a completely modern temple, too mo-

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dern, as age has of itself an imposing and religious character which the mind cannot separate rom the ideality of a truly beautiful church.

Saint-Blaise was the only catholic church at Vichy before the building of Saint-Louis. It belongs, of course, to the ancient town. If Saint-Louis church wants antiquity, Saint-Blaise is perhaps too old or, at least, has been too rarely repaired. With regard to architecture, it is not superior to most of the churches of our humblest villages. Owing to this, and also to its situation in the centre of old Vichy, few strangers trouble to visit the poor abandoned church : it is certainly not worth an excursion through a dull quarter of the city.

An **English church** had been rendered necessary, some time ago, by the large number of English visitors that Vichy receives every year. It was constructed on one side of the Market-place, not far from the Baths, the Casino and the most important houses in the town.

It has no pretence to architectural splendour, is rather small, and its façade is simple and naked. As it has been built not for purposes of adornment, but in order to be useful to Foreigners, we shall not be critical.

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A *Synagogue* is open, for persons of the Jewish religion, in an ancient hotel, boulevart de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, between the Town-Hall and the Marine square. The hours of service are published in the local papers and posted up through the city.

THE VILLA STRAUSS

Is a house celebrated at Vichy for the remembrances it recalls: for it was formerly occupied by the maëstro Strauss, and then, by Napoleon and his followers, during the first years of this monarch's presence at Vichy. Beyond this, it offers nothing remarkable as a monument and is now the residence of a Vichy physician, doctor Pupier, who piously preserves its former name, Villa Strauss, as a testimony of admiration of its first owner.

The Villa Strauss is situated on the W. side of the Park, and faces the Music square.

THE CHALETS

Are perhaps the most artistic edifices at Vichy not for the grandeur of their proportions (in this respect they cannot be compared to the monu-

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ments above mentioned) but for their elegance and picturesque situation under the shades of the new Park. They are called, and we think not wrongly, architectural gems. Gems indeed they are of graceful shape, with pretty wooden trellis work running round their balconies. Their general form reminds one of the Swiss chalets, with something more adorned and comfortable added. They gracefully command the new Park and look into the boulevart National.

The Chalets are six in number, three of which have always been private; the others were Napoleon's property. After the fall of that monarch, the Imperial chalets were confiscated and declared national goods. They were then sold to private persons who dwell there in the bathing season with their families.

Such is the nomenclature of the monuments of Vichy. They are neither very numerous nor extremely remarkable; but people do not come here as they go to Rome, for instance, to see imposing ruins or artistic splendours. The importance of Vichy lies in its springs: they can be destroyed neither by human revolutions nor even by the powerful hand of Time.

A geological cataclysm only could cause their disappearance. As long as man lives and suffers,

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Vichy will have a page in mankind's history. When a city has received from God's hands such a treasure as waters which conquer the world by making it their tributary, it needs no other gift from the hands of men.

THE VICHY PROMENADES

I. The Park

We will try to give a description of the Park at the different hours of the day.

In the morning (from five to seven) it is crossed, now and then, by persons in morning toilet, strolling from their hotels to the Baths, or from the Baths to their hotels.

It begins to be a little more animated at seven. Early walkers and paper readers are to be seen in the alleys. By degrees, drinkers, with a crystal glass in their hands, make their appearance and, with the gravity proper to the high duty they are called on to fulfil, commence besieging the *Grande-Grille*. It is evident to persons who daily witness the attentive care which every drinker pays to his glass of water, that any other pre-

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possessions are of little consequence in comparison with the attainment of health. There is some solemnity in the act of filling up the glasses and draining them, as if Health, Youth and Beauty were in the bottom of each.

After drinking, people slowly proceed towards the Music square, for the morning concert is about to begin. The aspect of this place during the concert is a peculiar one. No toilets are yet exhibited, as they do not agree with the busy bustle of morning life. Ladies are seen in rather negligent costumes. Few of them sit to listen to the music, for the whole attention of the crowd is not given up to it: the prescribed glasses of water ought not to be forgotten, and sometimes, when the concert proves too long, it becomes necessary to desert the music for the *Grande-Grille.*

Drinking-bustle begins again immediately after the concert. Most of the company hasten to the Wells, in order to be right with their doctors before breakfast, which generally takes place at ten. From ten to eleven, the Park, so very animated a few moments before, looks like a desert: scarcely a visitor is to be seen; perhaps two or three boys are playing on their way from school. At eleven, tables are set before the houses for coffee, and carriages come to take their ranks

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close to the hotels, to be engaged by persons desirous of driving.

The Park gradually becomes more brilliant until two o'clock in the afternoon. At half past two exactly, the strains of the concert are heard in the Music kiosk, and the crowd, a most elegant one, is already flocking into the square. The place then turns into lists where ladies of high taste struggle for the palm of elegance and beauty. This exhibition (for an exhibition it is) takes place every day, at the same time, on the same spot. The lady who carries the day becomes immediately celebrated among the Vichy visitors; but hard is the battle, and difficult is the victory!

Men and women, in friendly groups, talking or working at tapestry, form a very picturesque ring around the kiosk; some couples are seen walking amidst the groups and often stopping, either to salute a friend or listen to the music, or sometimes to enjoy the animated scene before their eyes.

The afternoon concert is at an end towards half past three. It is again drinking-time, and every one proceeds towards the Wells. In the intervals of glasses, drinkers take a walk under the galleries of the Baths, if it happens to rain, or by the House and in the central alley, when it is fine. Many

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people avail themselves of the chairs close to the façade of the Casino, or of the seats on both sides of the alley, to review the toilets. The tradesmen around the Establishment are always, at that time of the day, surrounded by crowds of persons making their little purchases.

At half past five, bells are heard ringing in the neighbouring hotels, and immediately a general movement of retreat may be observed on all sides. In less than a quarter of an hour the place is cleared and so remains till half past six, when bustle begins again, to increase up to play time, viz: eight o'clock in the evening.

Then commences evening dress. The façade of the Casino sparkles with gas lights; all the rooms are filled, and particularly the Theatre and the Ball-saloon where a concert is given, as we said, three times a-week. On fine nights, when it is too hot to stay very long in the theatre, spectators go out in the intervals between the acts, to breath the cool air and walk in the Park. Then the Casino looks like a hive with its buzzing, rustling, rushing bees: this uninterrupted movement of people leaving the house by groups or reentering hastily to avoid missing something of the play: this promenading of the elegant about the Casino; this musical murmur of merry voices

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give an entertaining character to the evenings at Vichy, which it is perhaps easier to feel than describe.

At eleven, the play is at an end and the spectators hasten to their homes. Few visitors outgo this extreme limit of the day in thermal life: at twelve no noise of steps is heard in the place. The Park then falls asleep until the early passage of the employés of the Baths, going back to work.

Besides the first rate Bath Establishment and the Casino, the Park includes a large Café, named the *Restauration*, the Music square, two kiosks for the Orchestra, two paper kiosks and several stalls for tradesmen.

II. The New-Park

This pleasure-ground draws a graceful half-circle around the S. part of the town. We have stated that this spot was formerly overflowed nearly every year, by the river, and that it was transformed into a nice garden by Napoleon III. The new Park exceeds very much the old one in extent; but, as it does not lie between the Baths and the Casino, fashionable people, and such as

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are fond of sight seeing, will always show some preference to the other. Such as like solitude will, on the contrary, take a fancy to the green groves and dark shadows of the new Park. Going that way from the Bath Establishment to the Celestins is perhaps the most pleasant walk at Vichy, at least for persons preferring nature to toilets.

The new Park is not yet grown up to that degree of luxuriant beauty it will acquire in some years. However many improvements have been lately accomplished, and make it the nicest pleasure-ground in the department. Numerous alleys, carefully gravelled, connect the different parts of the Park; clumps of trees shade them, at intervals; flowers of various colours and perfumes are gathered into parterres of the gayest aspect, and in the meadow, the use of an ingenious watering-engine promotes a perpetual bloom and freshness.

The N. part of the garden is embellished with green-houses and a pond with a rustic bridge. The swans and ducks in it are a source of amusement for children, whilst parents sit under a large poplar (one of the most extraordinary trees in the Park) close at hand. A summer house was recently built, in case of rain, to afford shelter from the passing shower.

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When Napoleon III was residing at Vichy, a part of the Park was his private property and people were not admitted there; but now, the whole of the garden is thrown open to the Public. A special keeper is appointed to take care of it.

The water Company of Vichy pays every year to the public treasury a considerable sum of money for repairing the Park, and the superintendance of the works accomplished there is entrusted to an officer of the Estate, the overseer of bridges and roads (conducteur des Ponts-et-Chaussées) residing at Vichy. There is also a chief-gardener with several men under his direction to attend to the flowers, and workmen are frequently engaged to help them in their task of digging and mowing during the summer season. A dam is set in the Allier to keep the waters in front of the Park: thus affording to people walking on the banks of the river the pleasure of looking upon splendid scenery, it also gives those who happen to be fond of rowing an opportunity of so doing. Pic-nic parties are sometimes desirous of availing themselves of it. Therefore boats of various kinds are to be had at the river. But this sort of amusement does not receive much patronage at Vichy: very few oarsmen hire the boats, in consequence of which the barks, being poorly

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kept and rarely repaired, present but little comfort or security.

The suppression of the dam has been talked of on account of the danger that is sometimes incurred from the floods. The slightest incompetency of the overseer of bridges and roads might be attended with disastrous consequences, and we have seen the floods rushing over the dam, before it could be unblocked for their passage. Vichy is, by its dike, secure from their fury; but an enormous quantity of water is sometimes thrown back to the other shore, which then presents a picture of devastation. The village there, Vaisse, has many times had houses overflowed. Even at Vichy, several hotels in the lower part of the town have had their cellars or ground-floors inundated by the water.

All these inconveniences deserve, no doubt, to be set in comparison with the pleasure of a few fresh water sailors; but this, being a local question, is of little interest to strangers.

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III. — The Celestins and the Lardy Park.

The water administration has perfectly understood that, as the Celestins springs were at some distance from the centre of the city, it was useful and perhaps necessary to organize a pleasant promenade and a resting-place there. For this purpose it had covered galleries erected and halls fitted with seats where visitors may rest comfortably sheltered from either rain or heat. One of the sources springs in an artificial grotto of a most imposing appearance, and both the others rise under iron constructions recently built. The space before the springs and waiting-rooms is shaded by groves of trees and embellished with flowers.

The three Celestins springs issue from one rock which supports what remains of the ancient monastery, a half-ruined, old house, by the side of which several foot-paths, lost in the green, lead, through lilacs, pine-trees, cedars, etc., to the garden. The upper part of this garden looks by no means inferior in freshness to either the old or new Park. Picturesque alleys run through green

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clumps of trees, and seats are placed in the recesses at the disposition of the promenaders who wish to enjoy the cool air and peaceful tranquillity of the spot. At the same time they can admire the splendid flowers of the garden.

As may be imagined, the Celestins promenade is frequented by many visitors at every hour of the day, but especially at drinking-time, after the concert, from four to five in the afternoon. Such is then the pressure of drinkers that they stand in a file, in expectation of their glasses. After taking them, they sit under the trees or stroll to the Celestins Park to have a walk before dinner, whilst others, in their turn, hasten to the Wells. From the Terrace, the sight of those bustling persons is most animated, and this animation can be traced from the Park to the Celestins, for the whole way is bordered with shops of the gayest aspect, which expose for sale great quantities of articles of small value, such as pencils, relics, crystals, etc. ; whilst open air dealers in old stories deliver a speech to people flocking around them. Promenaders are seen bent in admiration over an old gothic Bible, or inspecting the rusty arms of a middle-age knight, or cheapening some fishing tackle. It is a scene worthy the pencil of a humourist.

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Not very different is the appearance of the Lardy Park, which is a few yards distant from the Celestins. But the time of greatest animation there is in the evening, after the repast, from half past six to eight, as the Lardy water is digestive and especially used after meals. It is also the spot for a delightful evening promenade, in alleys perfumed by honey-suckle, or for a peaceful rest under the thatched roof of the spring.

The Celestins and Lardy Parks open on the boulevart des Célestins and the rue de Nismes. Both of them are equally blooming and attractive.

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The charges for dispatches are fixed at *one sou* (a halfpenny) by word whatever be the place in France to which they are sent, on condition that they should not include less than ten words.

A telegram sent to London (20 words). 4 fr. — 0.3.2 1/2
A telegram sent to any other place in England (same number of words)..... 6 fr. — 0.4.10

POST

The office is open to the Public every day from 7 o'clock in the morning to 9 in the evening.

There are four distributions of letters per-day, during the bathing season ;

1st From 7 to 8 in the morning ;

2nd From 12 to 1 ;

3rd From 4 to 5, in the afternoon ;

4th From 8 1/2 to 9.

Letter-boxes are to be found at the Post-Office, in the N. gallery of the first class Establishment, place des Quatre-Chemins, place de la Croix de la

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Mission, at the Station, etc., and also in the Casino and all the first class hotels at Vichy.

Letters only should be thrown into the post-boxes; as for printed Papers, such as Notices, Circulars, Printer's Proofs, Samples, etc., they ought to be presented at the wickets of the offices, and sealed in such a manner as to let them be easily inspected, to see that nothing is contained which may be considered as having a character of correspondence.

Papers and printed articles of various kinds are charged less than letters; but they may not exceed 3 kilogr. (6 pounds) in weight, and 45 cent. in length.

There are two methods of sending money.

1st An international post-order can be had at the offices, by paying in the sum intended to be sent and a slight charge for the order. This mandate is enclosed in the letter in the usual way and without any special information written on the envelope.

2nd A sum in banknotes, stamps, etc., can be sent in a sealed letter without the sender's declaring the quantity of money enclosed; but the letter ought to be delivered at the office and registered as containing money. A special charge of 25 cents is made for registration, and the postage must be paid as usual.

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CARRIAGES

—

Carriages stand for hire in the Park.

From the Place des Quatre-Chemins a continual service of omnibuses leaves for Cusset: the charge is only 30 cents (three pence) for a journey.

*
* *

The carriage charges for Vichy and its Environs are fixed as follows :

TARIFFS OF JOB CARRIAGES

I. — VICHY

Interior of the City

From 6 o'clock in the morning to 12 at night.

One horse carriage, a course.....	1 f.	25	0.1.0
» an hour.....	2	25	0.1.10
A carriage and pair, a course.....	2	»	0.1.7 1/2
» an hour.....	3	»	0.2.5

From 12 o'clock at night to 6 o'clock in the morning.

One horse carriage, a course.....	2 f.		0.1.7 1/2
» an hour.....	3	»	0.2.5
A carriage and pair, a course.....	2	»	0.2.0
» an hour.....	3	50	0.2.10

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Going from the station, with or without luggage to hotels, or from hotels to the station.

From 6 o'clock in the morning to 12 at night.

One horse carriage, a course.....	1 f.	50	0.1.2 1/2
A carriage and pair »	2	50	0.2.0

From 12 o'clock at night to 6 in the morning.

One horse carriage, a course.....	2 f.	»	0.1.7 1/2
A carriage and pair »	3	»	0 2.5

For the above charges, travellers arriving by train are conveyed from place to place, until they find lodgings.

II. — CUSSET

One horse carriage, a course.....	1 f.	50	0.1.2 1/2
» an hour.....	2	50	0.2.0
A carriage and pair, a course.....	2	50	0 2.0
» an hour.....	3	50	0 2 10

The course for Vichy and Cusset is from the starting point to the spot of arrival, not including the return.

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III — EXCURSIONS OUT OF VICHY

There and back, including the time for rest

ONE HORSE CARRIAGES

	Time for rest		
Charmeil	1 hour.	7 fr.	0.5.7 1/2
Côte Saint-Amand	»	7 »	0.5.7 1/2
Hauterive	»	7 »	0 5.7 1/2
Malavaux	»	7 »	0.5.7 1/2
Montagne-Verte	»	7 »	0.5.7 1/2
Ardoisière	»	8 »	0.6.5
Bourbon-Busset	2	15 »	0.12.0
Randan	»	15 »	0.12.0
Maulmont	»	15 »	0.12.0
Châteldon	»	15 »	0.12 0
Gannat	»	15 »	0 12.0

CARRIAGES AND PAIR

	Time for rest		
Charmeil	1 hour.	10 fr.	0.8.0
Côte Saint-Amand	»	10 »	0.8.0
Hauterive	»	10 »	0.8.0
Malavaux	»	10 »	0.8.0
Montagne-Verte	»	10 »	0.8.0
Ardoisière	»	12 »	0.9.7 1/2
Bourbon-Busset	2	20 »	0.16.0
Randan	»	20 »	0 16.0
Maulmont	»	20 »	0.16.0
Châteldon	»	20 »	0.16.0
Gannat	»	20 »	0.16.0

For the other promenades mentioned in this book, *Billy*, *Chateldon*, *Thiers*, etc., agree with the coachman.

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IV. — INDEFINITE EXCURSIONS

Out of Vichy

One horse carriage, first hour.....	3 f.	»	0.2.5
— following hours, each.	2	»	0.1.7 1/2
One horse carriage, half a day.....	9	»	0.7.2 1/2
— a day.....	18	»	0.14.5
A carriage and pair, first hour.....	4	»	0.3.2 1/2
— following hours, each.	3	»	0.2.5
A carriage and pair, half a day.....	12	50	0.10 0
— a day.....	25	»	1.0.0

NOTA. — The price for the first hour is always charged, even if the coachman has not been employed the whole time.

The succeeding hours may be divided into quarters, and paid for pro rata.

The length of the day is fixed at 12 hours, including 2 hours for resting, and that of the half a day, at 6 hours, including 1 hour for the rest.

The coachmen are obliged to ask those hiring their carriages whether they intend to hire by the course, by the hour, and by the day or by the half a day.

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RAILWAY

PRICE OF THE JOURNEY

From Vichy to some of the French and Foreign places.

	FIRST CLASS			SECOND CLASS		
Aix-les-Bains.....	35 fr.	50	1.8.5	26 fr.	65	1.1.4
Bordeaux	58	90	2.7.1 1/2	44	25	1.15.5
Boulogne-sur-Mer .	72	30	3.1. 1/2	57	25	2.5.0
Bourges.....	19	85	0.15.11	14	90	0.11.11 1/2
Calais.....	81	60	3.5.3 1/2	61	20	2.8.0
Cannes.....	87	30	3.9.10 1/2	65	50	2.12.5
Cette	55	90	2.4.9	42	»	1.13.7 1/2
Chambéry.....	37	20	1.9.9 1/2	28	»	1.2.5
Chartres	43	10	1.14.6	32	35	1.5.11
Cherbourg	90	75	3.12.7 1/2	68	05	2.14.5 1/2
Dieppe.....	65	70	2.12.7	49	30	1.19.5 1/2
Dijon	31	»	1.4.10	23	30	0.18.8
Dunkerque	82	60	3.6.1	62	»	2.9.7 1/2
Geneva	40	70	1.12.7	30	50	1.4.5
Grenoble.....	35	»	1.8.0	26	30	1.1. 1/2
La Rochelle	54	45	2.3.7	41	»	1.12.10
Le Havre	73	15	2.18.6 1/2	54	85	2.3.11
Lille.....	75	85	2.0.8 1/2	56	90	2.5.6 1/2
Lyons	20	15	0.16.1 1/2	15	15	0.12.1 1/2
Mâcon	25	10	1.0.1	18	85	0.15.1
Marseilles	63	40	2.10.9	47	65	1.18.1 1/2
Mentone	94	»	3.15.2 1/2	70	60	2.16.6
Monaco	93	»	3.14.5	69	75	2.15.10

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	FIRST CLASS			SECOND CLASS		
Montpellier.....	61 fr.	60	2.9.3 1/2	45 fr.	55	1.16.5 1/2
Nancy.....	65	»	2.12.0	48	75	1.19.0
Nantes.....	58	»	2.6.5	43	55	1.14.10 1/2
Nevers.....	13	90	0.11.11 1/2	10	40	0.8.4
Nice.....	91	10	3.12.11	68	40	2.14.9
Nîmes.....	54	55	2.3.8	41	»	1.12.10
Orléans.....	33	65	1.6.11 1/2	25	25	1.0.2 1/2
Paris.....	45	05	1.16.1/2	33	80	1.7.1/2
Pau.....	88	80	3.11.1/2	66	65	2.13.4
Reims.....	66	20	2.12.12	49	65	1.19.9
Rouen.....	61	80	2.9.5 1/2	46	30	1.17.1/2
Saint-Etienne.....	19	65	0.15.9	14	75	0.11.10
Saint-Nazaire.....	63	75	2.11.0	48	10	1.18.6
Toulon.....	71	65	2.17.4	53	75	2.3.0
Toulouse.....	56	80	2.5.5 1/2	42	65	1.14.1 1/2
Tours.....	37	60	1.10.1	28	25	1.2.7 1/2
Trouville.....	72	15	2.17.9	54	15	2.3.4

The hours of arrival and departure of trains cannot be fixed in advance ; they will be found in the *Indicateur des chemins de fer*.

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NUMBER OF STRANGERS

from 1850 to 1882

YEARS	STRANGERS	YEARS	STRANGERS
1850	6.709	1867	20.599
1851	6.954	1868	22.939
1852	6.823	1869	23.262
1853	6.653	1870	17.035
1854	7.802	1871	17.209
1855	8.882	1872	25.524
1856	9.626	1873	25.433
1857	9.922	1874	26.145
1858	11.918	1875	28.777
1859	12.909	1876	30.177
1860	12.690	1877	28.065
1861	16.044	1878	30.833
1862	17.401	1879	38.805
1863	19.625	1880	37.067
1864	20.673	1881	40.205
1865	19.092	1882	41.060
1866	21.357		

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THE ENVIRONS

THE VAISSE INTERMITTENT SPRING

Is not classed among the medical springs, because its chemical properties have not been, to this day, the subject of analysis and experiment. Therefore its waters are not prescribed for use; yet the visitors that daily go there are in the habit of tasting them from mere curiosity. The Vaisse source is strongly sulphurous, and does not appear to have, in its general properties, much similarity with the other Vichy springs, which are rather alkaline. Perhaps the difference between them takes its origin in their being separated by the Allier.

At all events the Vaisse spring has only been, till now, a walk. It is one mile distant from the Baths and a few yards from the bridge. Many

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persons go there to witness the phenomenon which takes place twice a-day and is the bursting forth of the water from its outlet. The hours for it are calculated in advance and posted, every day, in the S. extremity of the central gallery of the first class Establishment. People may there see the daily placards, but we advise them to go to the spring a little before the waters burst out, to be present when the phenomenon commences.

The hot water bursts out foaming, to a height of about 6 or 8 yards. The stream is immediately surrounded with white vapours which spread a strong sulphurous smell. But the first jet is the highest; then the spring decreases slowly, with starts and a kind of convulsions; just the same Geysers of Iceland have been observed to act and described by travellers. The Vaisse spring is indeed a little Geyser, but we do not know if the flow can be excited by throwing lumps of earth or stones into the aperture, as such experiments are by no means allowed by the keeper.

This eruption lasts about a half an hour, during which time it appears forced out by an intermittent power, rushing at intervals as if in a passion and starting like a sick person. But its rage abates by degrees and, at last, it scarcely exceeds the level of the stone basin into which

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the stream passes. The water itself is limpid enough with a slightly milky appearance. It is not very palatable, as it has a strong sulphurous savour.

The soil in this place was formerly covered with the water from the spring that had no reservoir and formed, in several places, dull-looking ponds. Nobody could venture there without being exposed to the danger of sinking into the muddy ground up to their knees. But the place has been completely cleared: walls were constructed and a cottage, built on the spot. Young trees were planted around the spring, and seats put under their pleasant shade, so as to afford visitor a cool resting-place, while the stream roars. A sort of iron kiosk shelters the basin and serves to arrest the spring in spurting upwards.

There is scarcely a spot, in the Environs of Vichy, either offering a natural phenomenon, as the Vaisse spring, or commanding an extensive view, as the *Montagne Verte*, the *Ardoisière*, the *Malavaux*, etc., that does not impose a tax upon visitors. The tariffs are usually graduated from 50 cents to 1 franc. *The admission to the Intermittent source is 50 cents.* In the lodge, which is both an inn and the keeper's dwelling, beer and other refreshments can be had at moderate prices.

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CUSSET

Cusset (about two miles from Vichy) enjoys a pleasant situation at the foot of three hills and upon two prattling brooks which meet there and unite their waters. Its environs are green and picturesque ; it appears plainly to deserve its name (hidden city, in the Celtic language). Hidden it is, indeed, as if in a nest, by surrounding luxuriant hills.

However, on entering the town, the first impression is far from being favourable to it. The first object one beholds is an old, round tower which has been turned into a prison for the district ; and then, a building which is the Cusset private Bath Establishment, supplied with water by the sources *Elisabeth* and *Sainte-Marie*.

What strikes you most, as you enter the narrow, dirty, muddy streets of the burgh, is the ancient appearance of the houses. Those which date from the XVth & XVIth century are numerous. Some of them should strongly interest both historians and archæologists ; for some events which have a place in our national annals happened at Cusset, as the reconciliation between Charles VII and his son. A house overlooking the Market is said to have

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been the place where the treaty was signed. Several other houses show evident marks of their great age, as old Latin inscriptions, sculptural ornaments of a gothic character, ogive windows, etc. There is, in the promenade of the Plane-trees, a very strange construction which is now the residence of a lawyer.

Cusset has a double character, proceeding from its antiquity and its situation as a town of justice. It positively lives upon quarrels and disputes between fellow-citizens, and this circumstance communicates to the whole burgh a peculiar appearance which answers to the principal occupation of its inhabitants.

None of the Cusset monuments are remarkable, except an old convent which was spacious enough to include the modern Town-Hall, the Court and a School. The Church looks to us much superior to those of Vichy, though it is not worth a particular description.

Cusset is the most important commercial place in the neighbourhood. Besides the market-days which weekly take place on saturdays, there are well attended fairs about every month, and the number of transactions they give rise to exceeds belief. Peasants are to be seen, proceeding from all directions towards this common business

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centre. Articles of all kinds are exhibited on sale. The sight of a commercial dispute between two French peasants is one of the most amusing things that can be recommended to foreign curiosity.

We shall now give a few particulars about the history of Cusset. After a description from Nicolaï, who has been an historian to both Cusset and Vichy, the burgh was in possession, towards the end of the XVth century, of an enclosure of strong walls, which rendered it one of the most important cities in the Bourbonnais. We have related the share of Cusset in the bloody war of the Praguerie, and how the struggle ended there. The king Louis XI declared that the walls of Cusset "were the highest and strongest in his kingdom.,, And, to be sure, he was too cunning a fellow to speak inconsiderately of anything in the world and particularly of things concerning his power.

It appears that, during his stay there, he had not only conceived a strong admiration of the strength of the city, but also picked up, as a companion, a fellow named Doyat, who played, in the intimacy of the king, about the same part as Oliver-le-Dain or the butcher Caboche. Properly speaking, nobody knows exactly what were Doyat's occupations at court; but it is beyond doubt that he had great influence over the king's

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mind, and was one of the most powerful persons at that period. Louis died before his favourite and, under Anne de Beaujeu, poor Doyat experienced what has been so many times said or written in all languages about Fortune's wheel. He fell into disgrace and was condemned to death, after his tongue had been perforated with a steel needle, which makes it supposed that his tongue had not been a stranger to the crime he had committed. Doyat's punishment took place at Cusset, his native city, or at Clermont-Ferrand.

The king Louis' favourite was, fi not the best, at least the most famous and powerful man Cusset boasts to have given birth to; never since has the city itself enjoyed so great a reputation as then. After Doyat's death, it sank into an obscurity from which it never rose again, and fell, like Vichy and other places in the neighbourhood, into the hands of powerful religious orders who disappeared in the sweeping whirlwind of 1789. From that period, Cusset became the quiet, laborious, commercial little town we now see.

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THE MALAVAUX

Again here is a walk easy to take either between breakfast and dinner, or after dinner, when the days are long. Good walkers can even go on foot from Cusset to the Malavaux, and return the same.

Malavaux means, in the Latin language, cursed valley (maledicta vallis). The fact is that imagination cannot easily conceive a more desolate place. The marks of a geological cataclysm are evident there, and the general aspect of the spot is not unsuitable to the tale which goes around in the neighbouring villages. But let us trace the way to the Cursed Valley.

The road, on leaving Cusset, breaks into a luxuriant, green-looking plain, which extends for about one mile. It reaches a bridge over a brook, the *Jolan*, and suddenly, bearing to the right, penetrates into a narrow valley along the stream, the prattling of which is almost the only noise to be heard in this desert. As you go on, the scenery gets more and more wild. In the bottom is a meadow, through which the brook hastens, as if it longed to quit this dull place. On both sides

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of the meadow, dry, rocky, rugged mountains rise. They get nearer and nearer, as you proceed, and at last they change the valley into a sort of ravine, which looks as if about to close up abruptly before you. In this spot, it is not much more than five yards wide. Fortunately the waters are rarely swollen in the summer; otherwise it would be sometimes difficult to get over the stream, the bed of which is obstructed with rocks. There the way crosses the brook; you walk a few steps farther and reach the Malavaux.

There is not much difference between this place and the valley you have just walked through. It is the same sterile, rocky land: it looks like a desert, and often the echoes return no other sound but the noise of the brook rushing through the ravine. The mountain of the Malavaux is said to be haunted. A well at its top is named the Well of the Devil. The keeper shows visitors some ruins which his tale changes into the remains of a castle of the knights Templars. To complete the illusion, he points out, at the top of the mountain facing the Malavaux, a particular rock which has some likeness to a monk; a mossy beard is hanging upon the Friar's breast, and makes it look like a living man on his knees. The strangeness of the place and its name communicate to

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the mind a peculiar disposition to superstition and prepare it for stories of sorcerers and necromancy.

According to the legend, the Castle of the knights Templars, the ruins of which are so very useful to the keeper's industry, was formerly inhabited by a powerful community that filled the whole neighbourhood with terror. Numerous were the causes of the fear they spread. They had razed to the ground many a castle, set fire to many a town, and committed many a crime. But what especially struck the country with terror was the disappearance of several ladies renowned for their beauty. Public suspicions accused the knights of taking them away; but suspicion is no proof, and had evidence been strong against them, great was their force, high their towers and difficult the attack. So, for fear of having an account to settle with such powerful enemies, people in the vicinity held their tongues, and disappearances grew more frequent and mysterious.

At last, a young lady, the daughter of a neighbouring baron, disappeared on the very day before her nuptials. The suspicions of her father and bridegroom did not wander very long: they fell immediately upon the monks of the mountain, and the young gentleman resolved to discover the

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truth and revenge the insult. But how to creep into the den? He disguised himself as a servant and knocked at the gate of the castle. The monks, per chance, happened to be then in the want of a serving man, and he was engaged.

He played his part so skilfully that the Friars soon lost all caution before him. He then acquired the certitude that not only his own bride, but many other beautiful young ladies were shut up in that castle and forced into nightly orgies of the most abominable character. He swore vengeance against the wretches and, escaping from the house, went directly to the judge, at Cusset, to whom he related the whole affair. He offered to be at once the guide and chief of the expedition which was to be directed against the rascals.

Eight hundred soldiers were sent to besiege the castle. The guilty knights, surrounded in their den, resisted during several days with the fury of despair. Several assaults from the soldiers were repulsed; but such was the ardour of the besiegers' chief that nothing could discourage him and his hatred was shared by his men. At last, the doors were broken open, and the towers scaled. Such monks as had not perished in the defence were immediately murdered. Beautiful Margaret and her unfortunate consorts were res-

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tored to liberty, but, alas! she soon died, poor thing! with shame and sorrow.

The officers of justice set fire to the castle and of this building nothing remains but the few stones that are yet to be seen at the top of the Malavaux.

This place has, of course, its admission office (one franc for the entrance) and its restaurant, a little rustic house leaning against a rock. The distance from Vichy is about five miles. An excursion there requires three hours, or perhaps four, when Cusset is visited on the way.

THE ARDOISIÈRE

None of the promenades in the Environs enjoy so great a reputation as the *Ardoisière*, and, in fact, this site is one of the most picturesque in the Forez mountain.

On leaving Cusset, the road enters into a valley which is rather spacious at first and the aspect of which gets wilder and wilder, as one goes on. The first houses of a little village, called the *Grivats*, are soon passed. The name of this borough is celebrated not only in the neighbourhood, but we dare say throughout France, for it

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is the proper name of the Vichy linens (toiles de Vichy) which are so universally worn, during the summer season, both at Vichy and at all the French watering-places. The Grivats have been for several years the principal centre of the manufacture of these cloths, an important house giving occupation to great quantities of workmen. But, in the year 1868, a conflagration destroyed it. The manufactory has never been built again. People can see its blackened, half-ruined walls upon the Sichon. It is a loss for the working population around, and also for the manufacture itself of the *toiles de Vichy*, which are now made everywhere, except at Vichy and the surrounding country.

At some distance from the Grivats the valley suddenly widens into a splendid natural hyppodrome; then it closes again and the road enters a dark, cool, woody defile which ends in a bridge over the brook. After crossing it and walking a little farther, you reach the Ardoisière.

This name comes from a slate quarry formerly opened in this place, and then abandoned, on account of the friability of its products.

A charge is made, at the admission office, of one franc for each person; but those who break-

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fast or dine at the restaurant have gratuitous admission.

A female guide accompanies visitors wishing to see the curiosities of the place.

The first thing to visit is the quarry. It is a dark hole opening into the bottom of the mountain. We advise people not to venture there, when warm with walking, on account of the wet cold produced by the obscurity. It chills the body as one enters the cavern. At the extremity of the dark gallery, one hears of kind of sinister chopping: it is the noise of the water falling from the walls in a wide, round, deep well from which slates were formerly extracted.

People do not usually remain very long in this place. They hasten off to the sunshine.

Shaded foot paths lead visitors to the *Gourre-Saillant*. *Gourre* is not a French word; in the country language it means a waterfall, and *saillant* signifies jumping. Unfortunately, in the summer, so little water is in the brook that the epithet of *saillant* looks perfectly undeserved. Indeed the Sichon falls very quietly into rocky holes where it seems to sleep and then to die. But very different is the appearance of the cascade, when swollen floods rush into this funnel, foaming and

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thundering, and filling the ravine with a sort of damp vapour. The noise of the waterfall is then loud enough to be heard at Cusset, viz; at six miles distance, and the scenery, commanding enough to be set in comparison with the Swiss sites.

At all events, as there are no other cascades in the neighbourhood of Vichy, the Gourre-Saillant may be justly considered as the Niagara of the Environs. Besides the waterfall itself, Nature is beautiful enough in the Ardoisière valley to deserve the special favour it enjoys among the bathing community at Vichy.

But, to enjoy a panorama of the whole place, it is necessary to climb the woody mountain and reach the ruins of a castle of the knights Templars, at the top. This ascension is rather hard, in spite of the foot paths through the wood, and would not require less than three quarters of an hour. The ruins are by no means remarkable, and the castle itself belongs much more to legend than to history. On the matter in hand, one writer rightly observed that the knights Templars were the bugbears of the neighbourhood, and that popular imagination placed the monasteries of these men wherever old ruins are to be seen. But, if broken and little authentic remains are not worth

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ascension, the scenery is; there are but few panoramas comparable to it in the Environs.

Games of various sorts are improvised in the valley, beneath the trees. Joyful parties come there every day to sport or dine. It is well to add that tables have been very comfortably set in the green, on the shore of the brook, the gentle murmur of which associates with the warbling of birds. Families may dine there in the open air and in the enjoyment of solitude. Should it happen to rain, a billiard-room and saloons are put at the service of the visitors.

Old people of the country remember having seen a grotto in the mountain, sheltering a venerable-looking man, in friar's cloths, who, as peasants said, spent his days in prayers. The monk's austerity soon caused him to pass for a saint. He slept upon fagots and scourged himself severely; but the privations af his solitary life did not kill the temptations of the flesh. He was accused of enticing the ingenuous girls of the mountain to his grotto for immoral purposes. This accusation proved right and Friar John was summoned to give up his grotto to appear before the Court, at Cusset. It was then discovered that the holy man was a dangerous convict who had recently escaped from transportation and tried to

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deceive men by the pretence of an ardent devotion to God. It is scarcely necessary to add that he was recondemned to the galleys.

The Ardoisière is said to have been the favourite walk of the Emperor, during his stay at Vichy.

The distance is about nine miles, and the time to go there and return, four hours.

BOURBON-BUSSET

Many an excursionist kills two birds with one stone and from the Ardoisière reaches *Bourbon-Busset*. Persons who would like to visit the castle of Bourbon-Busset and the Ardoisière on the same day had better begin by the latter; for from this place to Busset, the road, though pleasant enough, has nothing remarkable, whilst, on the contrary, it commands an admirable view from Busset to Vichy: therefore it would be a wrong to have one's back turned, in driving, to such scenery.

The distance from the Ardoisière to Busset is about three miles. On reaching the village, one is struck with the humble appearance of the peasants' cottages set in comparison with the enor-

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mous warlike building of the Squire. All of them are flocking around the superb walls of the castle, as if preserving a relic of feudal custom. As for the castle itself, it looks like a scout, posted on the very top of the mountain, to overlook the surrounding country.

Busset castle is a quite feudal one, and therefore has an architectural character which is rare enough now. The towers are adorned with battlements, and the gate, protected by a draw-bridge, exactly as if such things could be of use at present. When you get near the walls, you instinctively raise your eyes to see if no herald is walking in arms on the towers. It seems that the years which lie between us and the Middle-Age slip out of memory, and that we sink again into the iron times, the apparatus of which is present before our eyes.

The gate of the castle is surmounted by an enormous tower covered with ivy. The first yard into which people penetrate by the draw-bridge above mentioned, is separated from the second by a long iron grate giving admission to the court of honour.

You then behold a modern Gothic façade, curiosely imitated from the old style. At the first floor is a splendid balcony; on the left, a buil-

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ding ended by a private chapel ; and then, three high, menacing towers, the most celebrated of which, named *Tour de Riom*, commands an extensive and magnificent view.

The inside of the castle may justly be compared to a musœum. On visiting the apartments, on interrogating the old family remembrances included there, you are truly journeying through elapsed ages. It would be too long, and perhaps little interesting, to give a discription of every room in particular ; the only thing is to see them and therefore to solicit admission, which is always gracefully granted. Now let us turn over the history of the family.

In the XVth century, the estates of the lords of Busset entered the family of Bourbon by the marriage of Marguerite d'Allègre, the heiress of the mansion, with Pierre de Bourbon ; whence, the name of Bourbon-Busset given to the new family. But, as Louis, Pierre's father, had got married in Germany, without the consent of the king and that of the duke of Bourbon, his eldest brother, the children born from this marriage were considered as illegitimate, and a mark of bastardy was added to the family escutcheon. It is this very mark which crosses the blazon of the owner of

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the Busset castle and which may be remarked on portions of his furniture.

Pierre, the founder of this family, tried in vain to have it taken off and the legitimacy of his own birth, recognized.

Philippe de Bourbon, earl of Busset, his son, was a cup-bearer to Louise de Savoie, the king François' mother. He then went on with the action brought by his father against the Bourbon house, and, in the year 1518, the king consented to admit his claims to legitimacy, without allowing him to partake of the family estates. From that period, the kings of France gave the title of cousins to the descendants of Philippe de Bourbon, and a patent, conceded in 1661 by Louis XIV, granted them a regular permission of taking it.

Among the most celebrated persons of this family, it is but just to mention Claude de Bourbon, who was a governor to the Limousin, Louis de Bourbon, a major-general in the artillery, who was killed in besieging Friburg, in 1677, and general François de Bourbon-Busset, father of Charles de Bourbon-Busset, the present owner of the castle, and heir of the family estates.

The rude, fierce aspect of the mountain, the top of which is crowned by the castle, perfectly

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agrees with the character of this building. As you go down, you are struck by the sterility of the land; in some places the ground has a bloody-red colour, as if crimes had been committed there in earlier ages, and their traces remained engraved in the very granite of the mountain. The contrast of this barren land sets forth the splendour of the scenery spread before the eyes. Further than the sight can reach, the valley of the Allier and the hills of the Limagne extend, whilst the Puy de Dôme, like a dark-blue giant, makes the back ground of this grand, admirable picture.

From *Saint-Yorre*, the village at the foot of the Busset mountain, the road to Vichy runs through a green, luxuriant country. About half way, it crosses another place, named *Abrest*, which has nothing remarkable but its picturesque situation on the banks of the river, and an old, dark, half-ruined house, pompously entitled a castle by the peasants of the village. At last you behold, on the left side of the way, a little before reentering the town, the *source Larbaud*, the property of Larbaud senior, which, rising within the territory of Vichy, ought not to be confounded with the *source Saint-Yorre*, belonging to Larbaud junior. This confusion, indeed, is the cause of many mistakes among the foreign visitors at Vichy. We

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should advise passing people to alight at the source Larbaud, and spend a few moments in visiting the engine for the cold concentration of the Vichy water and tasting that of the spring.

Bourbon - Busset stands at about 12 miles from Vichy. An excursion there takes four hours, or perhaps, in performing the walk such as it is traced here, viz. In visiting the Ardoisière, Abrest, the source Larbaud, six hours, that is, the whole afternoon, from eleven to five.

THE MONTAGNE SAINT-ANAND

This is an excursion that can be performed in a carriage, on a donkey, or even, by good walkers, on foot, for the place is not more than four miles off. Donkeys are chiefly used to reach the *Montagne Saint-Amand* and the *Montagne-Verte*, two places which may be considered as Hercules' columns to many excursionists.

To reach the Montagne Saint-Amand, you proceed by the route de Nimes, as far as the Villa Bulot, an elegant country-house, which stands on the left of the road ; and then you begin clim-

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bing the hills. By the side of the Villa Bulot is the reservoir for the water pumped from the Allier by an engine that can be seen on the shore of the river, and then carried by pipes into the Vichy public fountains. There are no villages or hamlets that can be pointed out on the way, as landmarks, to the persons reaching the Montagne Saint-Amand ; but posts, placed at intervals, with inscriptions on them, plainly indicate the direction.

The way goes through vineyards , orchards and fields of the most various aspect. When you arrive before the establishment, the panorama is already splendid, and yet it is by no means comparable to that you enjoy, from the top of the tower built there, with the aid of a telescope disposed for a close inspection of the environs. The valley of the Allier, Abrest, Vichy look to touch the extrémity of the telescope, and it is easy to see the time at the public clocks of this last place. The castle of Bourbon-Busset can be examined in all its particulars : people are seen walking in the garden. But the view extends much farther, as it embraces the Rock Saint-Vincent, the Montoncelle, the whole Limagne, Randan, Clermont, etc., etc.

The charge for the admission to the Côte Saint-Amand is one franc ; dinners and refreshments

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can be had at the inn at moderate prices. An excursion there does not take much more than two hours and a half.

At a small distance from the Montagne Saint-Amand stands the village of *Vernet*, celebrated in the whole neighbourhood for the primitive simplicity of its inhabitants and the tail of a particular horse which is to be seen in the church. This horse is that of Saint-George, the patron of the village. It appears that the tail of the holy animal is endowed with the privilege of causing the prompt marriage of the girl fortunate enough to skim it over with her hand on the dedication-day. Then, many a girl lurks in its vicinity, but is often prevented from touching the tail by the presence of troublesome spectators. However the talisman is frequently caressed and every year sees many a girl married at Vernet.

THE MONTAGNE-VERTE

That is a pretty name (green mountain) and, what is better, a plainly deserved one. The *Montagne Verte* can be seen from Vichy, crowning with its exploration tower a luxuriant hill the

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declivity of which is covered with trees and vineyards. There is perhaps no other promenade more frequented in the Environs of Vichy; for, except Cusset, there is none, in the circle of the neighbouring pleasant places, closer to the town. Indeed it is not much more than three miles off, and a walk there can be performed within two hours, for instance between dinner and play-time.

You follow the rue de Ballore as far as a small stone bridge over the Sichon, by the side of the Vichy hydrotherapic establishment. You pass over another bridge on a second branch of the same river, and break into a slight declivity which gradually turns into a hill, until you reach a little village on a high road, named *Pinasson*. Then, crossing the road, you follow a rustic way, abundantly shaded by nut-trees, and soon discover another hamlet which you also pass through. About half a mile farther on, you turn to the right and follow a green lane that leads you to the entrance of the establishment.

This establishment is composed by an inn, a kind of tower overlooking the surrounding country and a garden where games of different sorts, such as quoits, billiards, etc. are to be found for the entertainment of visitors. The belvedere is said to be constructed on the spot and with the ruins of

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buildings that legend traces up to Julius Cœsar. It is furnished with telescopes of an extraordinary strength, with the aid of which you can see :

The great chain of the Forez, the Puy de Dome and the giants of Auvergne, the mountains of the Creuse, Saint-Leon and Saint-Martin d'Estreaux ; a great quantity of castles, such as Bourbon-Busset, Randan, Veauce, la Fauconnière, Chantelle ; the bridge of Moulins ; and even, when weather is very clear, the cathedral of Bourges.

It is perhaps the most extensive panorama in the Environs of Vichy.

Numerous parties make an excursion to the Montagne-Verte to breakfast or dine : a tolerable repast can be had there at any time of the day, and tables, placed under the trees in the garden, in the open air, are prettily covered with fruit gathered in the orchard.

RANDAN & MAULMONT

The Randan estates belong to the family of Orleans. Whilst the Busset castle revives the appearance of past Gothic institutions, that of Randan seems less a castle than a spacious and comfor-

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table modern house. Busset is a high feudal fancy; Randan is like the usual abode of a private individual. Therefore the former is more picturesque in its style, the latter is plainer, and better agrees with the character of our times. A recent writer says that the castle of Randan has a smell of happy and flourishing *bourgeoisie* which makes you look in the corners for the family umbrella.

It stands at about 12 miles from Vichy. The road which leads there crosses over the bridge, passes through a village, named *Bois-Randenez*, and then enters woods.

A long green alley opens on to the palisade that gives admission to the court of honour. On entering, you perceive the building which impresses you with this character of commodity and simplicity that we have alluded to. The interior is full of historical curiosities. You visit a picture gallery which is adorned with several drawings due to the young princess Marie d'Orleans; and then, the Musœum, Madame Adelaïde's room and oratory, the saloon of honour which unites the billiard-room to the library; the bed-room of the king Louis-Philippe; the chapel, with its painted glass-windows and stucco walls; the dining-room, also covered with stucco, adorned with

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arabesques and offering, in its floor, a very remarkable mosaïc work; at last, the kitchens the proportions and arrangements of which are worthy the enormous appetite of Homer's heroes.

The Park of Randan is by no means inferior to the castle itself; it is extremely spacious and every thing in it proves suitable to the grandeur and magnificence of the view.

The Terrace behind the castle commands one of the most splendid panoramas in the neighbourhood, as the sight embraces the whole Limagne, a rich valley which the Allier runs through before its entrance to the Bourbonnais. This terrace overlooks flower beds and gardens of the gayest aspect.

If the Randan castle is of a quite modern character, the Randanois itself, that is, the Randan estate traces its origin up to a remote antiquity. A convent of Benedictins is said to have given birth to this place, which soon after became the chief-town of an important *chatellenie* in Auvergne. Then its fortune sank into the obscurity of a family whose last member was, as we have found in old chronicles, Guillaume de Randan.

Jean de Polignac, his successor and heir of the Randan estates, had a daughter married to the duke of Sancerre, who perished at Marignan. This

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noble lady wedded, in second marriage, François de Larochefoucault, prince of Marcillac, whose descendants gained Randan much notoriety and glory. This place was even made a dukedom by the favour of Catherine de Larochefoucault, first maid of honour to Anne d'Autriche and governess to Louis XIV. It then passed into the house of Lorge and, at last, into that of Choiseul, whose heir sold, in 1821, a part of the estate to Madame Adelaïde, who bequeathed it to the duke of Montpensier. From this time the Randan estate remained in the possession of the princes of this family, who often visit the place in the summer season.

It is evident enough, that, during this long period of history, the Randan castle was several times repaired. Of the ancient building nothing is left, and the present construction belongs by no means to past ages as can be judged by its style and appearance.

On leaving Randan, visitors usually reach *Maulmont* (Maledictus Mons) which is two miles off. In this name (cursed mountain) lies a mystery concerning which neither history nor even legends enlighten us. The place is now a pretty

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hunting rendez-vous which, giving up, as has been wittily said, the constitutional style of the castle, traced its way up to the times of absolute power and took a sort of feudal character by the admission of battlements and turrets. In truth, the Maulmont hunting rendez-vous seems to us to be an adaptation of mooresque architecture.

It is picturesquely situated in the midst of woods and commands an extensive view over the valley of the Allier.

The custom is to visit, on the way to Vichy, a gay and healthy village, renowned for a mineral spring which, being hired by the tenant Company of the Vichy waters, is used for exportation, *Hauterive*, at four miles from the town. The spring rises in a luxuriant park which is open to visitors.

But many an excursionist proceeds as far as the *Bridge of Rys*, which is thrown over the Allier at a short distance from the spot where this river receives the *Dore*. This bridge, indeed, is of a slight and elegant style, and the valley of the Allier has there a peculiar character of fertility. A little farther is the route de Nimes which passes through Saint-Yorre and Abrest, and was mentioned when speaking of Bourbon-Busset.

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A walk to Randan requires the whole afternoon. The permission of visiting the apartments of the castle is granted on particular days which it is impossible to fix in advance, but which it is easy to know at Vichy.

CHARMEIL

Charmeil evidently means *charmant.* This castle stands in the midst of a beautiful park which forms a magnificent green shelter.

Before the perron of the castle is a grass-plot from which very pleasing scenery is to be enjoyed. One sees the vineyards and gay houses of *Creuzier*, spread over the hills in the sunshine ; also the old church of the village and the half-ruined tower, which seems to refer the bower of Creuzier to a remote antiquity.

The castle of Charmeil is less modern than has been said. Within these last twenty-five years its old walls have received a coat of modern varnish. It has been repaired so as to entirely lose its previous antique appearance. It has certainly not gained in picturesqueness, though increased convenience repays what it has lost in style. However, one sees antique remains which

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the masons did not obliterate, as the old foundations of the castle, the ancient chapel which, up to lately, was used as a parish-church for the inhabitants of the village, somes pieces of wall blackened by ages and covered with ivy. And even, when closely examined, the façade of the castle hardly conceals, under its modern varnish, the wrinkles of Time, the crevices and scars.

However the castle has not the grandeur and the solemn appearance of a Middle-Age manor, but the proportions of a modern abode in good taste ; and it is owing to this circumstance that the work of restoration has not given it the appearance of an anachronism or an architectural mistake.

The interior of the castle answers to the exterior, where all is in the modern taste : hangings, tapestry, etc., except the very form of apartments. The pieces of furniture and the objects of art are elegant and well chosen. There is not in the rooms that prodigality of luxury often ostentatiously displayed by vulgar parvenus. All is of an exquisite, aristocratic simplicity. We may remark in the small saloon two family portraits and a clock of strange style. Upon nearly all the chimney pieces there are specimens of antique china.

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The road to Charmeil is plain and easily followed : it runs through a valley of green and varied aspect. On the left, several country-houses are seen on the declivity of hills ; on the right, the Allier winds in its sandy course. The place is about four miles off : an excursion there can be made after dinner without missing play-time, at eight ; but it is most frequently made in the afternom.

BILLY

Billy is one of the most antique *chatellenies* in the Bourbonnais. Formidable must have been the castle, as it is said to have extended its power over twenty-five neighbouring towns, burghs or villages. But how changed are the times !

From far, you perceive the castle, commanding the country, and overlooking the skeletons of enormous nut-trees killed by the cold during the dreadful winter of 1870. But as you approach, this gigantic ruin presents a more and more devastated aspect, still standing, but in superb impotence. You soon distinctly behold the breaches of Time, the pieces of wall overthrown, the towers fallen,

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the battlements ruined, all this vast building dismantled by age, creviced, ravaged, wasted. In several places walls three yards thick are perforated ; others have only lost their first coat of stones and plaster, leaving their cores visible. Elsewhere you see constructions of a rather solid appearance posted on falling walls, and overlooking the village, as if these remains were yet inhabited and would keep the relics of a broken power over the surrounding country.

If you look into the interior of the castle through the breaches and holes, you perceive, among remains and heaps of fallen stones and broken beams, rank herbs and uncultivated bushes. Rose-trees are seen blooming on the very walls where formerly sentinels walked in arms.

Those remains are divided into two parts : the Castle itself, several inclosures of which are yet visible, capable of embracing a whole village, a whole burgh, and including now a garden in modern style ; and the Donjon, yet a strong menacing fortress, a kind of sentinel posted upon the top of the hill.

The key of the Donjon can be had at the farmer's. You ascend the broken steps of a stone

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staircase and open a heavy, narrow wooden door which gives admission to the interior of the fortress.

On the right, you immediately see a room hollowed in the wall and which certain peculiarities seem to indicate as the old chapel of the castle. But the arrangement of this hall was since changed, as there are traces of smoke in it : very likely it is that, as this place was close to the door, a post of soldiers was established there to prevent surprise from an enemy. At almost equal intervals, several casemates can be seen all around the interior of the fortress. All of them are cut in the thickness of walls, and can easily contain ten men ; all of them are also perforated with hoop-holes, from which enemies around the castle could be fired upon. Another hole in the wall is said to have been one *oubliette* of the castle. It is shut by a thick heavy door covered with iron locks. This dark, dull room is not more than five yards wide, and its centre is perforated for a kind of round, deep well the bottom of which can be lightened by some inflamed straw; but nothing is perceived there except a heap of stones and sticks thrown into the hole by visitors. It is said that human skeletons were drawn from it with fetters at their hands and feet. It is related too (but we do not know if truth agrees with

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legend) that considerable sums of money were found in this well. A subterranean gallery seems to end there, and several other ways under the castle are said to lead to the river or the country.

In some spots the walls are well preserved from the injuries of Time; at others, they are almost completely destroyed; now and then, one stone, detached from its place, falls heavily into the ruins and crushes the bushes at its foot. A high tower surmounted the Donjon, and some remains of it are yet visible. A thunderbolt ruined the stone staircase and dismantled the tower: a few steps can be seen in it. It would be very easy to repair the tower, and we know that this scheme has lately been the object of an examination, not for the purpose of embellishing a fallen manor, but in order to make this point an extensive observatory. From the top of this tower, indeed, a splendid prospect must be spread before the eyes.

Nothing can surpass the dullness and damp of the interior of the Donjon: high nettles are seen growing at the foot of the walls, and thin, stunted trees seem to languish in expectation of air and sunshine; whilst climbing plants, having reached the top, broak into a full blossoming.

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Strange to say, this enormous ruin has no history. How long ago the Billy castle has been abandoned and ruined, nobody knows in the neighbourhood. The old chronicles on Vichy and Cusset do not give any information on the matter. The revolution, in 1789, found it wasted. It is probable that the last Squire of Billy was a victim of Richelieu's severity; but this supposition can be strengthened by no documents. At all events the inhabitants of the surrounding country do not retain the tradition of a tyrannical power having hovered over them, as would probably happen, had the dominion of the masters of the castle lasted till lately. Now the whole property belongs to a neighbouring squire, who leaves it unheeded.

Besides the castle itself, the burgh of Billy proves of some interest. It was of some importance during the past two or three centuries, and offers to the curiosity of the Public houses whose origin can be traced to the XVIth and XVIIth century. Some of these buildings bear inscriptions in Latin or in old French. Others have windows and ornaments in the Gothic style. But the place looks, like the castle, crushed down by this fallen giant. It is, for a great part, constructed, with its ruins or formed with its dependences. All the houses flock around the castle, depending on it

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for protection, according to the custom of the Middle-Age.

Billy is about 12 miles distant from Vichy. The railway carries visitors as far as the Saint-Germain station ; from this place a good walker can easily reach Billy, which is only 2 miles off, on foot. But this style of going is not suitable most visitors, as it does not agree with the usual hours of repasts. It is better to hire a carriage ; an excursion to Billy usually requires the whole afternoon.

CHADELDON

Chateldon is but rarely visited by the Vichy bathers, because it is too far for most of them who are tied to the springs by the peremptory orders of their Doctors. As it is not less than 15 miles off, there are but few who take upon themselves to miss their Wells for the entertainment of so long an excursion. We regret it extremely for the sake both of the place and the tourists, because Chateldon is a little town of a truly picturesque character.

You follow the route de Nimes mentioned above, and pass through Abrest, Saint-Yorre, the

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Maison-Blanche; then, bearing to the left, you leave the Allier, and enter a flat country, till you reach Chateldon, that stands at the entrance of the defiles formed by the volcanic soil of the Auvergne mountains. The burgh is as cast into a sort of funnel, almost hermetically closed.

On entering the town, you are suddenly struck by the sight of a heavy, dark Middle-Age castle which seems weighing, with the whole of its mass, over this strange old city.

There is in it a rich mine for archæologic investigations. There are also views fit for painters of the realist school. Living remnants of the Middle-Age are, so to speak, attached to every house. These buildings of ancient architecture or, to speak more properly, of ancient masonry are very strange: instead of windows, you behold ogive holes with glasses sealed in lead frames; instead of walls, heaps of beams assembled in form of crosses, squares, lozenges, by some coats of plaster, and sometimes projecting over the streets; instead of roofs, high and declining pigeon-houses. Doors of a strange appearance, disjoined façades, worm-eaten and rain-worn wood balconies. Projecting stories are reached by the aid of staircases in the style of ladders; and these staircases, stories and balconies, quake under

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foot enough to make a miller turn pale. The inhabitants themselves appear quite unused to the presence of strangers, and the very moment a carriage rumbles over the stones of the streets, young and old heads can be seen stretched from doors, windows, every hole in the houses. The boys gather into groups and stare with wide open eyes and mouths. This picture of astonished faces fully agrees with its frame.

The lanes (for there are, properly speaking, no streets at Chateldon) are dark, narrow, muddy, ill paved, ill levelled. At all times of the year, a brook, the *Vauziron*, runs down the lanes and keeps some of them in a perpetual state of dampness.

Besides the general appearance of the place, there are four things worth seeing at Chateldon :

The Church, an interesting building of the XVIth century, with proper ornaments ;

The Belfry, a sort of grey, square tower, entered by a semi-circular door, and covered by a pyramidal roof with a wooden campanilla ;

The Castle which is said to trace its origin up to Louis VI' reign : an enormous mass, with cyclopean walls, thick, sixty feet high, wrapped in a sort of ivy cloak. In the yard, a ruin, what

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remains of a tower, shelters one of those abysses where so many mysteries of violence and tyranny were buried ;

And at last the Spring, rising at the extremity of the burgh. The waters of the Chateldon spring are most renowned in the neighbourhood for their gazeous composition : they truly rival the Saint-Galmier waters, though their reputation is not nearly so extended. It is perhaps the vicinity of the Vichy springs which prevents their being used, as they deserve to be. The tenant company of Vichy, that is the owner of the Chateldon Wells, have had works built on the spot for the expedition of these waters to the Vichy depot and the exportation to foreign countries.

Every thing proves that Chateldon (Chatel-Ondon, little town and great renown, after the old chronicles) has formerly contained a numerous and active population. It is probable that it had got emancipated soon after the reign of Louis VI who is known to have aided the movement of the Commons to liberty. The presence of the belfry we have mentioned above, and that of a building which is yet known as *the sheriffs'* house seems to prove, indeed, that Chateldon has been a free city. It contained also taneries and cutleries of some importance : we find in it the

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trace of those Middle-Age corporations which are mentioned in all the histories of old French towns. Unfortunately it had to undergo several successive plagues : the overflowing of the Vauziron and then the pestilence engendered by it. The presence of rice-fields in its environs is said also to have been a cause of infection. It would perhaps be right to not omit vexations from some squires in the neighbourhood ; for the freedom of the Middle-Age towns was only relative and did not always, especially in cities of little importance, prevent their being molested by the barons of the surrounding country. An emigration was the consequence of those misfortunes. Most of the population of Chateldon set off to Thiers ; whence the state of abandon and decay that we now behold.

THIERS

What strikes you, on reaching *Thiers*, in the boldness with which the little town has got astride upon one of those volcanic Auvergne mountains a shake of which would throw it down in the *Durolle*.

The streets are very sloping ; the houses (old

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houses from the XVth or XVIth century) climb over the heads of each other, as if to overlook the valley. One fears lest one of these houses should get detached and draw with it all those which are situated higher. One wonders how the town can maintain its position upon this sharpridge. There are in this place orchards which look like the suspended gardens of Semiramis.

Besides, you would not think you are in the midst of a town. Houses are not gathered into blocks; but many of them are sheltered by trees and lost in the green, as if quite in the country. It is the picturesque disorder of a village. At the corner of each street, instead of a public building, you get a sudden, light glimpse over the valley full of sunshine and animated by the musical rushing of the Durolle. You cannot help admiring it.

From the *Château des Ores* especially, which commands the Thiers mountain, you enjoy a panorama which cannot be matched. Under your feet, you see the blackened houses, irregular buildings, bold roofs of the little town wrapped in the green; a little below, the Durolle, that thunders in its ravine and gets into a rage at being so often required for the service of mills and manufactories; the Limagne, the admirable Limagne,

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softly undulating like a waving sea suddenly frozen; and then, in the distance, the violet heads of the Auvergne mountains.

Let us mention also the *Terrasse du Rampart* and the *Pont du Séchal*, as commanding extensive and splendid views.

At the foot of a hill, close to a cascade, there is the drying-room of a paper-mill entirely built on a rock. A bold bridge over the Durolle bears the name of the Devil's Bridge, because, according to a legend, as soon as the last stone of it was laid, the Devil took it off.

Nearly all the churches at Thiers, but especially *Saint-Jean* and *Saint-Genez*, are remarkable for their architectural character and rich ornementation.

The city itself is animated and noisy. It is the peculiar appearance of a laborious, working town. In fact all the Thiers population works hard, breaths fire in the forges, files, hammers, moves in the workshops. Everywhere is heard the ringing shriek of iron, the groans of the anvil, the noise of mill-stones and fullers..... The emigration from Chateldon, as it is said before, commenced the fortune of Thiers. All those Middle-Age corporations, driven from the antic burgh by plagues, brought there their tents, furniture

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and stock of tools. But the principal industry of Thiers is cutlery, not so much for the excellence of its products as the abundance and cheapness of the knives with which it furnishes the market. The Durolle is the very soul of this extensive local manufacture, its waters supplying the motive force.

AUVERGNE

Royat.—La Bourboule.—Mont-Dore.

Auvergne is perhaps the most picturesque province of France, and many tourists, on their leaving Vichy, are now in the habit of visiting Clermont and the watering-places of that district.

The most celebrated watering-places of Auvergne are situated in the very midst of the interesting parts of the country, that is, in the commanding chain of mountains which can rival the Alpine and Pyrenean summits. In fact, Auvergne has many times been called the French Switzerland: though the character of the two countries is not quite the same, Auvergne may justly be recommended to the Foreigner's curiosity and to those, in particular, who, for considerations of health, are obli-

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ged to spend a season at Vichy, on account of its vicinity to this last place. It is perhaps not necessary, during the heat of the summer season, to go so far as the Rhine and Germany to find a cool and pleasant country : many bathers who are under the necessity of coming back to Vichy to have in september a second season may, in the interval, visit Auvergne with much interest and benefit.

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The situation of **Royat**, in the midst of a splendid natural scenery and in the vicinity of a large town, which could easily supply all the necessities and even commodities of thermal life; the experienced efficacy of the water of the new spring aided a celebrity which now brings to Royat so great a quantity of bathers, that embellishments of all kinds have been rendered necessary. In 1876, a powerful company was formed, which held in its hands the Establishment *Saint-Marc*, the baths of *César* and those of *Saint-Victor*. Considerable works were then undertaken to adorn Royat, and brought to a rapid completion. The Casino and the Park have been enlarged, the number of bath-rooms augmented ; elegant chalets and villas rise everywhere.

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Of the chemical composition of the Royat waters and their medical properties it is not for us to treat. We should only say that the Romans had a notice of them, as it is easy to discover from the remnants of an old piscina and the ruins of a thermal Establishment found on the spot.

*
* *

La Bourboule is situated in the very centre of old Auvergne, at the junction of the Dome and Dore mountains. It is watered by the Dordogne winding through splendid scenery.

" Its precious springs rise on the right bank of the river, in the part of the valley which is nearest to this granite mountain that shelters it from the North; and we dare say this epithet " precious ,, has never been more really deserved; for, if some of their salts recall the distinctive qualities of the group of the Auvergne mineral waters, the strong dose of arsenic they contain gives their mineralisation a very peculiar character making them rank apart among the other watering-places of Europe.

" The importance they have assumed within a few years has visibly transformed the place. Unable to shelter the numerous patients who from every part of the world met at la Bourboule, the inhabi-

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tants of this poor village sold at a high rate the gardens and fields around their huts for squares, hotels and bathing-establishments. The contrast of the old hamlet of low, miserable cottages, with the modern buildings of the new city is very striking and plainly shows the transformation yearly taking place in this spot. ,,

*
* *

The village of **Mont-Dore** it as if it were dropped in the narrow valley of the Dordogne : it is but open to the N., the S. side being shut by the gigantic mass of the Sancy. On the right, is the *Capucin ;* on the left, the *Cascade du Mont-Dore*, which looks like a perpendicular silver ribbon. These mountains, in spite of their altitude, have a thin covering of grass ; but there is no appearance of fruit-trees or vegetables. Such is the harshness of the climate that, in the beginning of July, the Sancy is usually snow-crowned, and the inhabitants have, during the whole year, their victuals brought from Clermont. In winter, they are almost cloistered at home by the abundance of snow. Yet the efficacy of the Mont-Dore waters conquered the difficulties opposed by nature : there is hardly in France any watering-place more frequented and enjoying with the medical body a larger reputation.

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MANAGER: M. CHÊNEAU-FAURE

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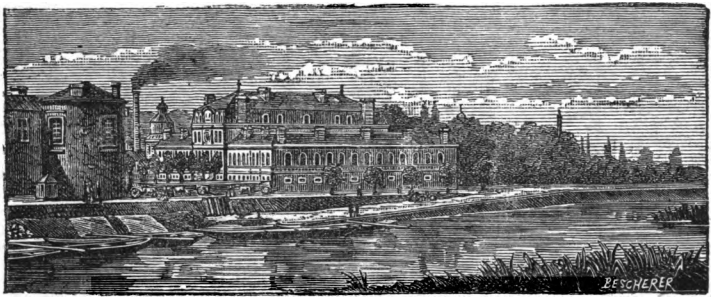

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